Partnership, not Meralco takeover, says Camacho

Story on PAGE A2

DepEd to revise Roco curriculum

By Donna S. Cueto

REVISIONS will have to be made in the restructured Basic Education Curriculum (BEC) for it to be effective, according to Education Secretary Edilberto de Jesus.

He said the Department of Education would follow the same program started by his resigned predecessor Raul Roco

DEPED/ A6

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

WHAT'S INSIDE

- Meralco creditors want power rate increase
  NEWS/A2
- House has 5 new party-list members
  NEWS/A3
- UN arms inspectors arrive in Baghdad
  WORLD/A11

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph
Wednesday, November 27, 2002 ★ 68 pages / 6 sections / vol. 17 / no. 352 P15
website: www.inq7.net

MJ keeping key evidence

Reds not keen on Christmas ceasefire

By Delfin T. Mallari
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

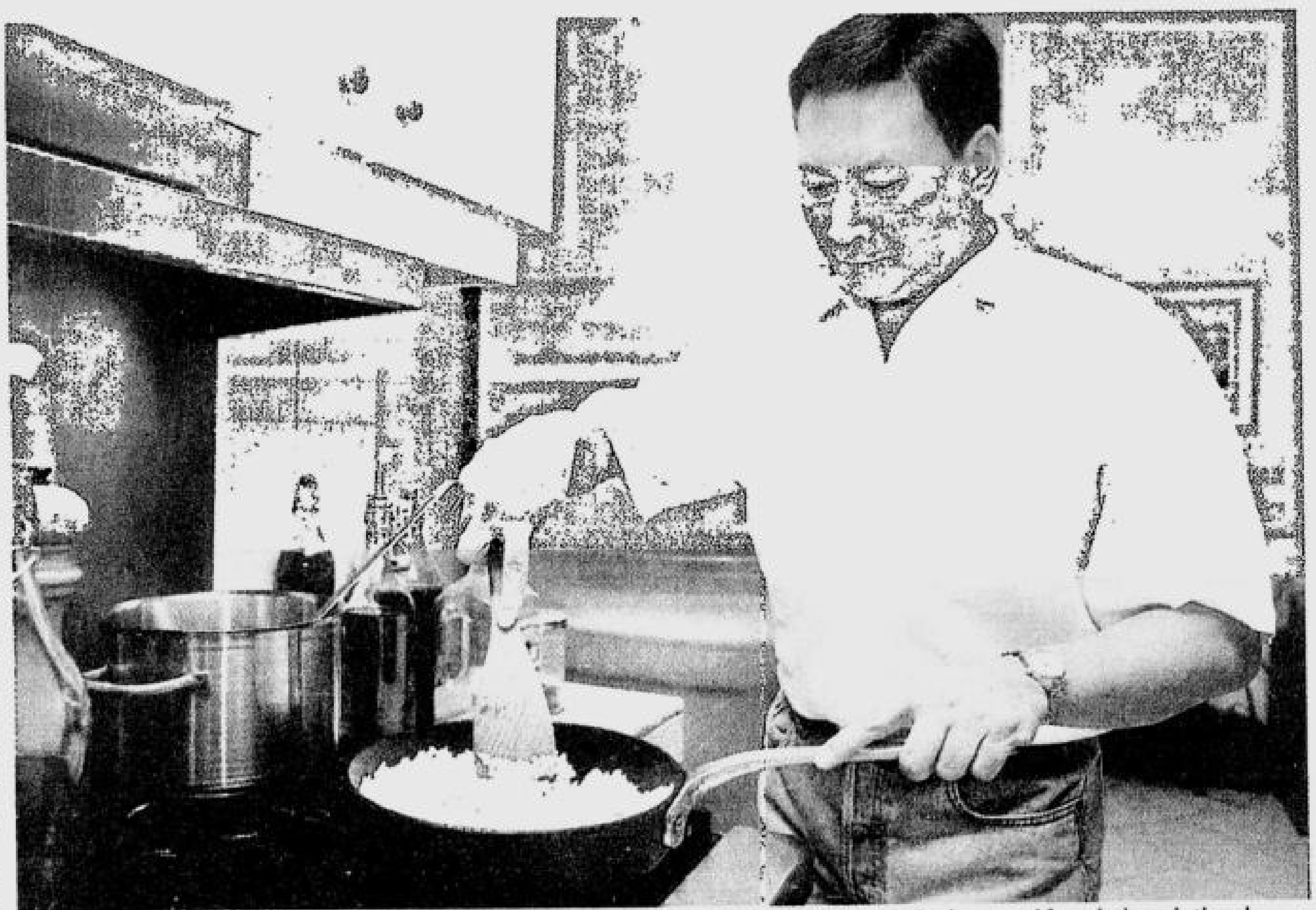
LUCENA CITY—Escalating attacks by communist guerrillas have put into question whether government forces and the New People's Army would observe a temporary halt to hostilities this Christmas season.

Exiled communist leader Jose Ma. Sison, who was recently tagged a terrorist by the United States and the European Union, said in an e-mail statement that the NPA, armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines, was disinclined to declare a unilateral ceasefire this Christmas.

Eduardo Ermita, President Macapagal-Arroyo's adviser on the peace process, earlier said he would recommend that government forces stop their offensives against the rebels during the holidays. Both sides have been observing a Christmas truce for many years.

Sison, CPP founding chair, said the negotiating panel of the communist-led National Democratic Front in the Dutch city of Utrecht was "still awaiting word from its national executive committee in the Philippines on whether there would be a ceasefire."

REDS/ A17



WHAT'S cooking in the kitchen with culinary whiz Ernest Escaler? His specialty: Risotto with rice imported from Italy and stirred constantly like the controversy that hounds him today.

FDI PHOTO

The importance of being Ernest Escaler

WHO'S Ernest L. Escaler and why are they saying those things about him and Justice Secretary Hernando Perez?

When Secretary Perez was secretly negotiating with businessman Mark Jimenez in the early days of the Macapagal administration, there was one private individual who was always beside Perez.

That person, apparently acting as the go-between, was Escaler, a swinging bachelor at 43 and a certified member of Manila's 400 with a jet-set lifestyle.

According to eyewitness accounts, Escaler hosted meetings between Perez and Jimenez in his Rockwell penthouse unit.

Besides Perez and Jimenez, other key DOJ officials like Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño were also present in the meetings, although none of the Department of Justice staffers were sure as to what official role, if any, Escaler played in the secret negotiations.

A friend of Escaler's who heard of the meetings claimed that Escaler was merely acting on a mission for President Macapagal to secure Jimenez's testimony in the trial against ousted President Estrada.

In 1999, Escaler founded an NGO called For the Glory of

THE IMPORTANCE/ A18

Document identifies account in HK bank

By Dona Pazzibugan and Cynthia Balana

A DOCUMENT that Rep. Mark Jimenez refused to share with the authorities is crucial to his extortion charge against Justice Secretary Hernando Perez.

The Palace plan to ask Perez to go on leave on Nov. 30 was disclosed only on Saturday, but the Malacañang investigation into Rep. Mark Jimenez's allegations against him was conducted as early as the middle of last year.

The INQUIRER has learned that the discreet probe, conducted by a lawyer who has since been appointed to the Supreme Court, secured documents from Jimenez himself. But the controversial congressman failed to provide the lawyer with one crucial document: the instruction sheet allegedly faxed to Jimenez by businessman Ernest Escaler, purportedly identifying the account in Coutts Bank in Hong Kong which received the $2-million deposit—allegedly in favor of Perez. *(See related article by Amando Doronila on Page A9.)*

The INQUIRER has since obtained a copy of the faxed document, through Jimenez's family. The faxline—the top line in the document that identifies the sender and the time it was

MJ/ A20

No money, no Nani; Jimenez unmoved

By Michael Lim Ubac and Juliet L. Javellana

WE don't know you.

That in effect was what top officials of the Coutts Bank branch in Hong Kong told Justice Secretary Hernando "Nani" Perez, in a letter dated and received yesterday.

"We write to confirm that we do not have (nor ever had previ ously) any business relationship with you," Chris Burton, branch manager, and Esther Heer, head of private banking for North East Asia, wrote to Perez. They wrote a similar letter, dated Nov. 25, to Perez's brother-in-law, Ramon Arceo Jr., whose name has also been mentioned as an account holder. *(See related story on Page A18.)*

But Manila Rep. Mark Jimenez, who said he deposited $2 million in Coutts in favor of Perez, shrugged off the bank's denials.

"We never said that the account belongs to Nani Perez. We just said the money went to that account given to us by (businessman Ernest) Escaler," Jimenez said.

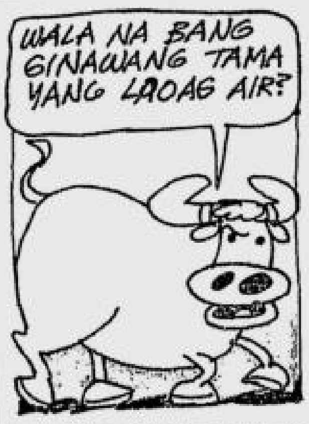
"That number is only the key. What is important is (to determine) the beneficiary and the one who controls the account," Jimenez added.

But the letters, written on official Coutts stationery and shown by Perez to reporters, also said:

"We hold no accounts for you either in your name or otherwise as beneficial owner."

In his dramatic privilege speech on Monday, Jimenez said

NO/ A18


WALA NA BANG GINAWANG TAMA YANG LAOAG AIR?

Flight 585 'black box' blank; LaoagAir used 'recycled' gear

By Abigail Ho and Norman Bordadora

EITHER Laoag International Airlines is deep into the recycling movement, or it's another instance of negligence on LaoagAir's part.

The so-called "black box" of the LaoagAir Fokker-27 that crashed into Manila Bay on Nov. 11 shortly after takeoff failed to record the last minutes of Flight 585, according to investigators.

Deo de Ocampo, a member of the National Transportation and Safety Board, yesterday said US experts found the twin-engine plane's flight data recorder

FLIGHT 585/ A17

Boy Wonder of RP politics talks about hints of dawn

By Rita Ledesma
Contributor

Editor's Note: Ninoy Aquino would have been 70 today

I REMEMBER the autumn day 20 years ago when that political animal Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr. told me about his soul.

Autumn is magnificent in New England. Colors change, leaves fall. The trees—chestnut, oak, maple, cypress, pine, redwood and fir—dance to the wind in graceful, splendid movements.

It was on such a glorious day in 1982 that Ninoy and I were driving leisurely along the highways and byways of Massachusetts. We had settled my son, Nicky, in his freshman dorm at Tufts University, and Ninoy was taking me to the airport where I was to catch my shuttle to New York.

Dazzled by the tapestry of gold and bronze and copper flames unfurling before me, I sat quietly in the car.

All at once he spoke, jarring my reverie: "I can't get over it! You don't seem to care about my opinions—what I think of (Ferdi-

BOY/ A6

Money trail hard to track if...

By Maricar Tolosa, *PDI Research* **and Clarissa S. Batino**

YOU open a bank account but don't want it in your name. What can you do?

You can either open an account under a fictitious name, an anonymous account or a numbered account.

Also known as the "invisible account," this type of service is popular in Switzerland, Belgium, Luxembourg, Mexico, the Bahamas, Cayman Islands, Bermuda and Hong Kong, Macau and Singapore.

Coutts Bank in Hong Kong, where Mark Jimenez allegedly deposited the $2-million payoff to Justice Secretary Hernando Perez, is a branch of a Swiss bank.

Countries have different banking laws and with the worldwide campaign against money laundering, laws on fictitious names and numbered accounts have

MONEY/ A18

ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

"WORTH more than a billion dollars," Rep. Mark Jimenez says of his family, wife Carol, sons Angelo, 9, and Mickey, 16, at their Forbes Park residence.

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Luzon and the Eastern sections of Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/11/27/02

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legaspi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Camacho: Partnership, not takeover

CAMACHO

By Carlito Pablo

A VERY disappointed Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho yesterday explained that he was not seeking to oust the Lopez group from the Manila Electric Co. when he proposed the solution that has landed him in controversy.

What was contemplated was a "caretaking situation" to ensure the financial survival of the power distributor after the Supreme Court ordered the firm to refund P28 billion to customers, Camacho told reporters at a Malacañang briefing yesterday.

What he proposed was a form of partnership, not a takeover, he explained.

Since the government already has a 25 percent stake in Meralco, "the idea cannot be characterized as a takeover," Camacho said.

Camacho sought to clarify the circumstances behind the government's bid to take management control of Meralco, 17 percent of which is owned by the Lopez family which retains full management control.

Press reports that the government was planning to take over the public utility and had sent the Lopez family a proposal drafted by Camacho raised a howl from politicians and legislators.

Camacho explained that the proposal called for the government and the Lopez family "working in partnership" to manage the firm.

It was supposed to be a "confidence-building measure" that was unfortunately misunderstood, he said.

Camacho said he thought he was doing the right thing when he proposed that government take management control of Meralco after his Harvard classmate Eugenio "Gabby" Lopez III went to him for help.

"It is now being painted as a malevolent plot to strip the family of the company," he said.

Camacho said he had "conveyed (his) personal disappointment" to Gabby Lopez after the issue was splashed all over the papers.

"I hope we remain friends," he said.

The government has decided to junk the Camacho solution after the adverse reaction from the Lopezes and Camacho said he himself had "lost interest" in pursuing a proposal that was "so misrepresented, so misunderstood."

"It was a working draft intended to put discussions in concrete terms," Camacho said. "That was the real spirit."

Camacho said that his proposal was similar to what the government did to rehabilitate the Philippine National Bank, which had been acquired by ethnic Chinese tycoon Lucio Tan.

He explained that although the proposal, which was sent to the Lopezes on Nov. 12, has been identified with him the document had been prepared in "collaboration with others."

Camacho recalled that when he, President Macapagal-Arroyo and other Cabinet officials had dinner with the Lopezes on Nov. 15 at the Palace, only hours after the Supreme Court released its ruling on the P28-billion refund, he explained the proposal to the Lopezes.

He said he hoped Oscar Lopez, the chair of the Benpres Holdings Corp., would confirm that the Lopezes had declared themselves "happy" over his (Camacho's) explanation that "removed suspicions" about it.

"I thought that was the end of that," Camacho said.

Meanwhile, Senate Majority Leader Loren Legarda, a former broadcaster who still hosts a documentary show with the Lopez-owned ABS-CBN, yesterday criticized Malacañang for its "superficial and half-baked approach" in finding a solution to the Meralco problem.

In a statement, Legarda said Malacañang's move had "painfully raised the specter of despotism and indicates an unseemly predilection for crass opportunism such as that witnessed only during the dark years of martial law."

She said Energy Secretary Vincent Perez's statement that the Camacho solution had already been "thrown in the garbage" was only a tactical retreat.

She said the government was only "regrouping" and would submit the same solution again. *With a report from Rocky Nazareno*

Creditors ask ERC to grant Meralco hike

By Elena R. Torrijos

CREDITOR banks of the Manila Electric Co. are urging the Energy Regulatory Commission to grant the power distributor a rate hike before Meralco starts missing payments on maturing debts early next year.

"What's key is for the ERC to make its decisions in a timely manner. We have to remove uncertainty so Meralco, the banks and the economy can get on with their lives," said Simon Paterno, the president of the Development Bank of the Philippines.

A significant portion of Meralco's P31-billion total debt will be maturing as early as next February.

Paterno said the ERC must decide on the appropriate rate of return—which will in turn determine the electricity rates to be charged consumers—to be allowed Meralco in the face of last week's adverse Supreme Court ruling.

The high tribunal ordered Meralco to refund some P28 billion to customers. The amount represents what the company allegedly overcharged when it included income taxes as operating expense in its return on rate base (RORB) computation.

Under the law, power utilities are allowed a maximum RORB of 12 percent.

Bank of the Philippine Islands president Xavier Loinaz has said that the government must "figure out the math" with regard to how Meralco could achieve the allowable RORB.

"They (Meralco) have clearly been earning below the guaranteed rate (of return)," said Loinaz noting that Meralco has not been granted a rate hike for many years already.

The government is the largest shareholder of Meralco with a 25 percent equity interest but has long allowed the Lopez family, which has a 17 percent stake, to exercise management control of the firm.

Paterno said that from the point of view of creditor banks, Meralco has not been financially mismanaged. He pointed out that Meralco's leverage was low and the company was profitable.

Officials from the creditor banks met with Energy Secretary Vincent Perez last week. Paterno said they all stressed that the government should ensure the financial viability of Meralco.

Paterno said that Perez had agreed to make such a commitment.

The commercial banks with the biggest exposures to Meralco are: Citibank N.A., the state-owned DBP, BPI, Equitable PCI Bank and Banco de Oro Universal Bank.

'He was too slow'

By Jerome Aning

SLOW implementation of tourism projects is said to have cost Philippine Tourism Authority general manager Nixon Kua his job.

Kua failed to achieve anything "substantial" during his two-year tenure, Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon said yesterday in a radio interview.

"He was quite slow," Gordon said. "I repeatedly warned him, 'Partner, let's speed up.' But he didn't."

Former Makati City councilor Robert Dean Barbers, a son of Sen. Robert Barbers, is set to replace Kua, who was appointed by President Joseph Estrada in November 2000.

MULAN TRAVEL SERVICE CORPORATION
Christmas Specials
Experience 5 Star Treatment During the Holidays
4 & 5 DAYS — SHANGHAI/MT. PUTUO — DEPARTURE DATES: DEC. 3 / DEC 20
4 & 5 DAYS — SHANGHAI — DEPARTURE DATE: DEC. 18
4 & 5 DAYS — BEIJING — DEPARTURE DATE: DEC. 18
10 DAYS — SHANGHAI / BEIJING / XIAN / GUILIN — DEPARTURE DATE: DEC. 18
10 DAYS — SHANGHAI / HARBIN — DEPARTURE DATE: DEC. 18
6 & 8 DAYS — SHANGHAI / BEIJING — DEPARTURE DATE: DEC. 19
525 Nueva Street, Binondo, Manila
Tel. 244-9690 • 245-4658 • 309-1758 Fax: 244-9692
E-mail: mulantravel@hotmail.com

WALL CLOCK ALARM + Key chain
PERSONALIZED
P198 per set
50 SETS. MIN.
Will pick-up logo/pictures for actual samples: or FAX it.
NO COLOR LIMIT
PROPERLY PACKAGED
Tel.. 821-4102
CEL 0917-9554223
0917-6454910
ACCEPT ORDERS OUTSIDE METRO

Do Not Despair, We Can Repair Your LAPTOPS
- We repair all makes and models of Laptops and Notebooks.
- All repairs warranted.
- Certified and factory trained Engineers & Technicians.

BUSINESSCARE S.T.C. Inc.
Makati • Quezon City • Manila
913-5177 • 912-1077 • 893-0898 • 536-6576

SECURiT™
Eliminate The Risk
HOTEL & HOME SAFE
Imported, solid steel anti-theft safe, digital Keyboard control for easy and quick open/close. Ideal as second safe at home when you need to frequently open/close your safe.
SAFE & FILE CABINET COMBO
Imported, durable steel, 4 drawers with top drawer as safe, fire-proof with unique non-asbestos material.
CASH & CHECK DEPOSITORY SAFE
Imported, solid steel anti-theft safe, with pilfer-proof cash insertion mechanism, specially intended for retail establishments, restaurants and businesses which require frequent periodic deposits of cash. Safe from holdups since cashier cannot open it.
Distributed by:
SAFE SECURITY SYSTEMS, INC.
235 Cattleya Bldg. Salcedo St., Legaspi Village,
Makati City Tel. Nos. 814-0708 / 818-1574

www.officeclub.com.ph
Complete line of office supplies, office furniture & equipment
DIGITAL BANTAM P 3,150.00
MANUAL COMB BINDER P 3,285.00
JR. EXECUTIVE DESK P 3,850.00
OHP PROJECTOR P 4,895.00
4 DRAWERS WITH METAL SWING P 5,995.00
VERBATIM 3.5 DISKETTE P 115.00
WATER DISPENSER P 4,995.00
MAX TIME RECORDER P 8,995.00
COMPUTER FORM 8 1/2 x 11 P 260.00
PANDA BALLPEN P 3.95/pc
MANILA 344 Nueva St. Binondo, Manila
Call Center : 244 - 7211 to 15
Fax No. : 243 - 1875
E-Mail :sales@officeclub.com.ph
MAKATI 814 Pasay Road , Makati City
Call Center : 752 - 8378 to 81
Fax No. : 752 - 8376
E-Mail : oc_makati@yahoo.com

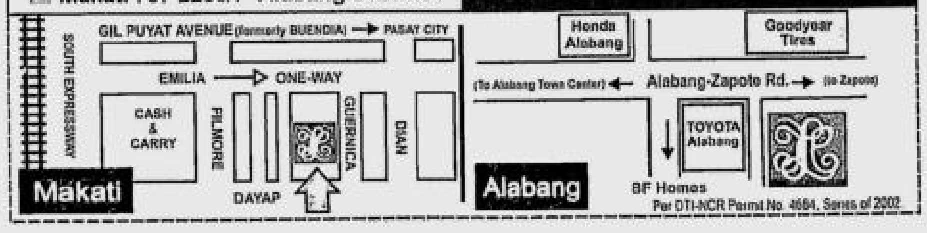
100% Brand New & Recon COPIERS
RICOH • Canon • Olivetti • Savin
P18,850. ONLY — LIQUID TYPE ENLARGER / REDUCER BEST FOR BUSINESS
P14,999. ONLY — POWDER TYPE FT 3320 For Personal Office Use
P30,500. ONLY — BRAND NEW! FULL COLOR DIGITAL COPIER FOR OFFICE / COMM'L USE
WITH FREE DIGITAL CAMERA
Guaranteed Big Savings™ Katun TONERS & PARTS For Use in SHARP, MITA, CANON, RISO, TOSHIBA, MINOLTA, ETC
Also Available
• Trade-in (Liquid / Powder Copier)
• Repair of most Copier Brands
• Ink for all Computer Printers
COPYTRADE®
Copytrade Bldg. 550 MF Jhocson St. Sampaloc (Beside Nat'l University)
Tels. 749-8155 to 56
781-3472 • 749-8216
Best Offer! Laminators / Fax Ringbinders / Cutters Riso / Gestetner Machines

HOMEMADE FOODSTUFF
CALL: 410-4521
929-9598 • 928-2765
926-6031 • 926-6029
415-3841 • 410-7228
HOLIDAY SPECIAL
10 courses—for 35 persons P6,325 only
STEAM PRAWNS and CRABS (2 gal. trays 2 kg prawns, 2 kg crabs) • TWO CHICKEN RELLENO (Nt. Wt. 1.2 kg each) boneless and make about 50 slices • ASPARAGUS and CHICKEN in white sauce (Nt. Wt. 2 kg.) • BUTTERED MUSHROOMS (1 gallon tray) • BEEF ROAST SLICES with fried vegetables (2 kg beef) • TWO PORK ROLL ROYALE (1 ft long x 3 in each • BARBECUED PREMIUM SPARE RIBS w/ BRANDY (2 kg.) • YOUNG CORN, QUAIL EGGS, GREEN PEAS w/ SHRIMPS (1 gal tray) • SPECIAL FRUIT SALAD (Nt. Wt. 2 kg.) creamy w/ peaches, grapes and lychees • POTATO SALAD, with celery (Nt. Wt. 2.5 kg.)
FREE DELIVERY
PULUTAN SPECIAL 4 courses For 20 persons P1,850 only
PULUTAN GRANDE 5 courses For 20 persons P2,200 only
FIESTA ESPESYAL 6 courses For 20 persons P2,575 only
FIESTA PILIPINO 6 courses For 20 persons P2,600 only
FIESTA GRANDE 6 courses For 20 persons P2,825 only
FIESTA ROYALE 6 courses For 25 persons P3,450 only
BUFFET ROYALE 6 courses For 50 persons P8,250 only
BUFFET DE LUXE 6 courses For 35 persons P5,675 only
HOMEMADE FOODSTUFF CO. 111 Dr. Lazcano St., Q.C

Yes you can with fittydent®
The patented Fittydent Denture Adhesive System let's you eat and drink while fully enjoying their natural tastes.
- Fittydent is an insoluble adhesive that bonds the dentures and the gums together.
- Only one application per day is needed.
- Fittydent is totally odorless, tasteless and completely non-hazardous. Lasts 10 times longer than conventional adhesives.
For a clean and odor-free dentures, use Fittydent Anti-Bacterial Cleansing Tablet
Exclusively Distributed by:
SPIROS
Suite 1707B-17th Floor West Tower, Philippine Stock Exchange Center, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Tel No.: 632-9093/96 • Fax No.: 632-90-79
The Fittydent Denture Adhesive System is available at Mercury Drug outlets, Allied Drug, Amesco (Davao City) and leading drugstores.

Mini PABX for Home and Office Use
All Brand New and Very Affordable!!!
FORTH ES-308
MAIN FEATURES:
- 3 CO. and 8 Locals
- built-in Intercom w/ Conference Call
- with built-in Auto Attendant (DISA)
- auto Day/Night mode
- can use any regular telephone, wireless phone, fax or internet*
*single-line telephones not included
ONLY P12,000* PER SYSTEM
ANOTHER SOGO SYSTEMS INNOVATION
ISO 9002 CERT.No. 016640
15 YEARS OF QUALITY PRODUCTS & SERVICES 2002
SOGO International Inc
538 Hen. Lacuna cor. Zamora Sts., Bangkal, Makati City
Tel. Nos.: (632) 889-0873 to 76 • Fax No.: (632) 816-2204
E-mail sales@sogo.com.ph • Website: www.sogo.com.ph
NOW ACCEPTING DEALERSHIPS IN METRO MANILA & PROVINCIAL AREAS

100% LEATHER
GUARANTEED THE LEATHER COLLECTION
All 100% leather @ 50% off bags, briefcases, organizers desk, travel & leisure accessories
Offer good only Nov. 22 - Dec. 01, 2002
THE LEATHER COLLECTION Factory Stores
50% OFF
Open 10 am to 7 pm daily
Makati 757 2286/7 Alabang 842 2261



Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4684, Series of 2002

House has 5 new party-list members

THE HOUSE of Representatives have five new members, all party list representatives proclaimed by the Commission on Election after the temporary restraining orders against the proclamation were lifted by the Supreme Court.

They are Mario Aguja of Akbayan; Sunny Rose Madamba and Edgar Valdez of the Association of Philippine Electric Cooperatives (Apec); and Maria Blanca Kim Bernardo-Lokin of the Citizens Battle Against Corruption (Cibac); and Leonila Chavez of Butil, a party representing the farmers of Central Luzon. Chavez will be the first representative of her party list.

Record attendance accurately and conveniently!

PRECISION ET-8100
- Automatic card feed & release
- Two (2) color printing, accurately identifies tardiness
- Perfect for offices, restaurants, schools, factories, etc.

Only P8,950

PRECISION MT-7100
- Works even during brownouts
- Two (2) color printing accurately identifies tardiness
- All-steel mechanism for years of reliable operation

FREE DEMO

INFINITE ☎ 892-9073 to 77

Merry Cleanmas!

With AFTER SALES SERVICE

Product	Price
Power Sprayer Pump	P2,900
Commando 90/30 90 BAR 2.5 HP	P3,900
Commando 90/40 90 BAR 2.5 HP	P4,900
Agua Water Filtration System & Air Cleaner	
Commando 110 1000 PSI 3.3 KW	P8,100
Super Foam	P9,700
Oxygen Water Filtration System Vacuum Cleaner w/ Electron IC Control	P9,900
WH Engine Driven	

FREE DELIVERY within Metro Manila
Major Credit Cards Accepted. Deferred Payments Up To 24 Mos.
Exclusively Distributed by:
CLEANCITY COMMERCIAL INCORPORATED
MAIN OFFICE: 1851 M. OROSA ST., MALATE, MLA.
Tel. Nos.: 5244328 • 5240529 • 5245290
Nextel: 49888 • Globe: 0917-7896670
QUEZON CITY BRANCHES: 646 QUEZON AVE. Tel. 7490581 • 7493709
162 DEL MONTE AVE. NR. COR. ROOSEVELT AVE. Tel. 4101086 • 3724429

traveling in appreciation of GOD's beautiful & bountiful creations

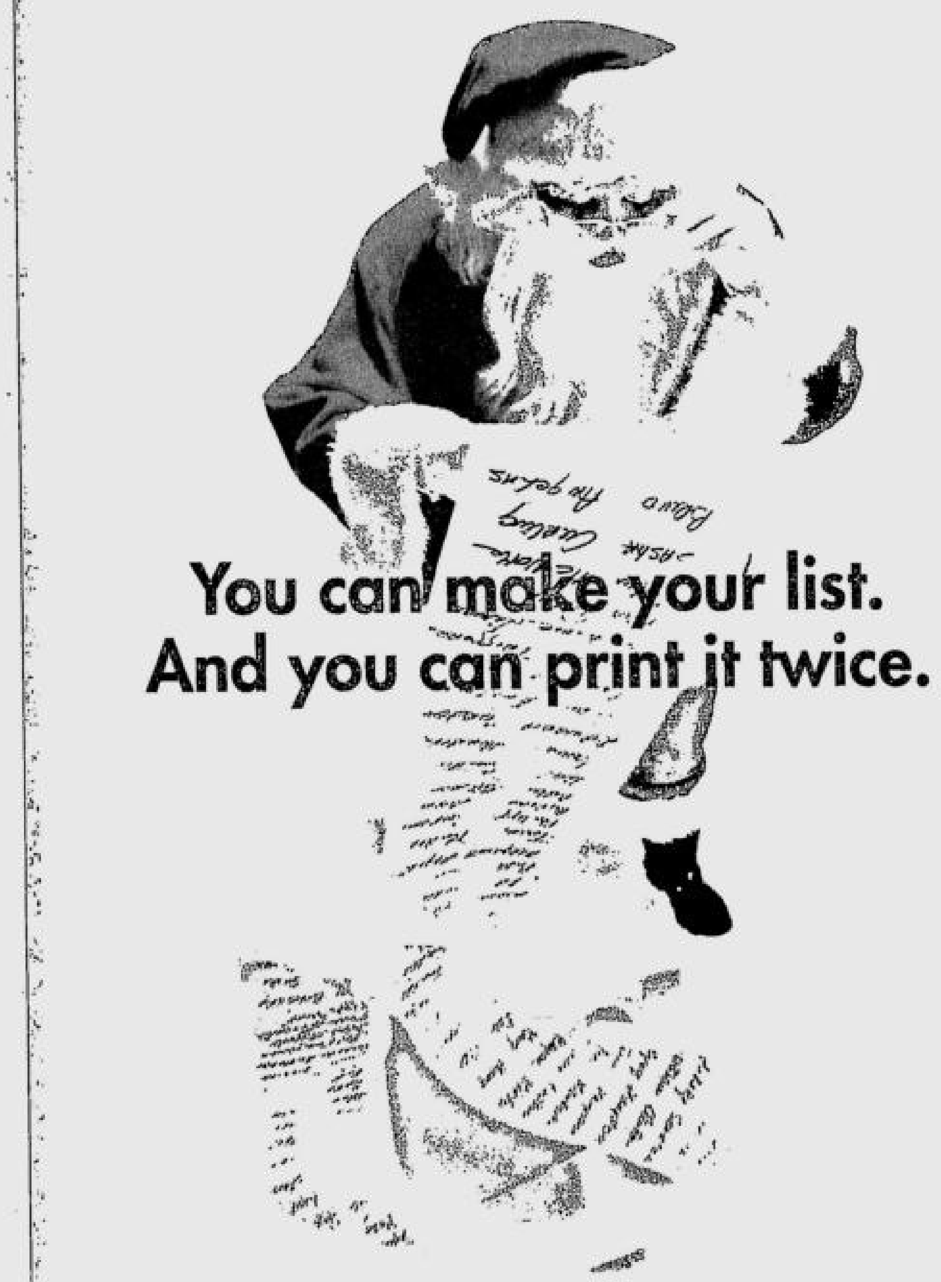
8 DAYS **ROME** US$ 1,490.00 Dep Sun, Wed, Fri & Sat Min 2 pax only
5 DAYS **KOREA WINTER SKI TOUR** (Last call) US$ 765.00 Dec. 26-30, 2002 (with Full Board Meals & Ski Equipment for Beginners)
4 DAYS SINGAPORE US$ 380.00
4 DAYS BANGKOK US$ 346.00
3 DAYS BORACAY P 8,255.00 w/ Round Trip Airfare

PIRKKO & TROYTOURS, INC.
U-210 City & Land Mega Plaza, (2nd Fl. Parking Level) ADB Ave. cor. Garnet St. Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Tels 688-8846 • 688-8658 • 687-2694 Fax 688-8846
E-mail troytour@info.com.ph

Lowest Price Home & Office Furniture
Other Furniture Also Available
OPEN ON SUNDAYS

Computer Desks 1,298 1,598
TV Rack 1,498
Wardrobe 2,498 3,498
Office Executive Chairs 2,198 1,898
Office Desks 1,398 1,698 998
Office Clerical Chairs 598 788 998

WORLD FURNITURE CENTER 650 Quezon Ave., QC near Araneta Ave. Tel.: (02) 732-5912
Universal Showroom: P. Sanchez St. (Shaw Blvd. Extension cor. Pupil St.) Sta. Mesa, Manila



You can make your list. And you can print it twice.

three-year warranty
to help you out
and a LaserJet cartridge for free.

Here's a reason to be merry: With each purchase of an HP LaserJet 1200, 1200n, or 1220 printer, we'll throw in an extra LaserJet print cartridge for free. Add to that the free 3-year warranty supportpack, and you get savings of over P5,000.00! So check out HP's 1200 Days of Christmas and get high quality and value – whether you've been naughty or nice.

hp LaserJet print cartridge C7115A

For more information please call (632) 867-3557
or toll-free 1-800-1331-4488
Or email ph.contact@hp.com
Promo runs from Nov. 15, 2002 to Jan. 31, 2003

hp LaserJet 1200
base unit
- 15 pages per minute
- 1200 dpi output
- 10,000 page duty cycle
- separate 1284-B parallel and USB "hot" ports
- hp printer language PostScript®2 emulation, PCL 5e and PCL 6
- 250-sheet paper input bin
- hp ultraprecise print cartridge for improved grayscale images

PhP 21,199.00

hp LaserJet 1200n
base unit plus:
- additional 8MB RAM (total 16MB)
- hp jetdirect 175x external print server/ internet connector 10/100Base-T Ethernet, TCP/IP, IPX/SPX, and LocalTalk protocols

PhP 33,099.00

hp LaserJet 1220 print/copy/scan
base unit plus:
- copy and scan features
- copy and scan software
- 30 page automatic document feeder with return tray

PhP 25,699.00

hp invent

ABC Computers 721-4960, 722-0370, 722-5151 • Accent Micro Products 631-6233, 631-6209 • Asianic 781-8245 to 48 • CBX Corporation – Cebu (032) 346-1461 to 63 • Columbia Group of Companies 364-1841 • Columbia Computer Center – Davao (082) 222-1475, 221-1678 • Complink Marketing 687-3165/60 • Electroworld 747-2058, 727-5057, Electroworld VisMin (032) 345-2787 to 89 • Faikee Computer Systems 727-3771 to 78 • Lenton Marketing Cebu (032) 254-6256 • MDR Microware Sales (032) 255-4415, (032) 254-5382 • Nexgen/PC Express 725-4383/85/87 • NT Computer Mart 633-4690 • Premium Logic/Universal Computers 721-2407, 725-5997, 724-8391 • Prodata System 414-4336/47 • Silicon Valley 371-5611 to 20, 371-6945 • Storapple 815-3236/87/68/47 • The Computer Authority 637-1200 Thinking Tools Inc. (032) 254-2227 • Total Quality Machines 526-4503 • Villman Computer Systems, Inc. 929-0411 to 12

© Hewlett-Packard 2002. All rights reserved.
Per DTI NCR Permit No. 4634, Series of 2002.

Bye-Bye Belly Bulges!

Whether you have a flabby tummy or a bulging belly, **Marie-France** can give it a flatter, sexier look with this special offer:

Get 3 FREE ELECTRO-LIPOLYSIS TREATMENTS upon enrollment from November 25-30, 2002 only!

Electro-lipolysis can easily get rid of unwanted fat in your tummy without pain or skin penetration. It can significantly reduce flab and bulges in your tummy to give it a flatter, smoother look.

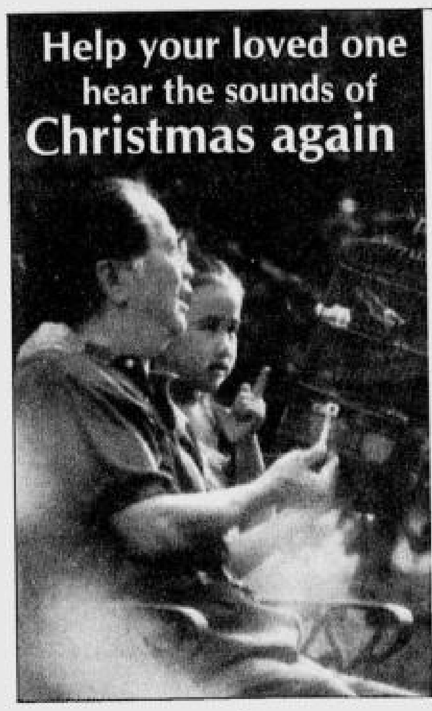
Say good-bye to your fat tummy troubles once and for all. Call Marie-France and avail of this FREE offer now!

Uncover Your Curves
Marie France
Bodyline International®

MAKATI	ORTIGAS	TIMOG	BINONDO	ALABANG	SHAW	CONGRESSIONAL	PAMPANGA	CEBU
816-1262	687-1216	372-6635	242-2199	809-9619	534-5898	920-8021	961-2981/91	233-7637
815-2052	687-1218	372-6636	243-8230	850-4574	534-5877	920-8047	860-6921/22	233-7639
819-3340	638-3028	410-3723 • 410-3724	242-3299 • 242-2399	842-4633 • 842-6887	717-0071 • 717-0072	920-7675		233-7641

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4458 Series of 2002

NO EXERCISE MACHINES • NO WORKOUT CLASSES • NO PILLS OR INJECTIONS • NO HUNGER PAINS • NO MEDICATIONS • NO SURGERY



Help your loved one hear the sounds of Christmas again

Make this season the beginning of lasting joy for your loved ones-give them the gift of better hearing. Help someone you love take that crucial first step towards better hearing-get a "no obligation" FREE HEARING TEST at Sountex℠

Sountex℠ uses state-of-the-art Siemens Unity™ System for precise and accurate hearing tests. The most complete range of Siemens products from the affordable conventional to the fully digital "invisible" hearing aids- there is a suitable hearing care package for everyone.

Call us today and we'll be happy to schedule an appointment for you.

CALL FOR A FREE HEARING TEST!
Robinsons Ortigas: 635 9033
Makati 867 1916

SOUNtex

Palace laments rating downgrade

MALACAÑANG yesterday complained that the London-based Fitch Ratings had not taken into account the country's other "positive macroeconomic factors" when it downgraded the Philippines' sovereign outlook because of the runaway budget deficit.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye cited the country's low interest rates, low inflation rate and healthy exports in an interview with radio dzMM.

But Bunye also acknowledged that the country must work harder to convince Fitch Ratings to reverse its downgrade.

"With the downgrade, we will just have to work harder to get our rating back from negative to stable," Bunye said.

He said the deficit, at P187 billion in end-October and expected to reach P223 billion by the end of the year, remained "a challenge for us."

Fitch had cited "further evidence of falling tax revenues, which have undermined the government's fiscal credibility and raised concerns about rising public indebtedness."

Standard and Poor's took the same action in October.

In a briefing at Malacañang, Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho described the Fitch Ratings downgrade as "really a warning more than anything else."

"It's not totally surprising," Camacho said. "We acknowledge the issue."

He said Fitch had at least acknowledged that the economic situation of the Philippines was "different" from that of Latin America.

Camacho said the government was instituting measures to shore up revenue collections.

One of these is a review of all tax exemptions.

"If certain rulings provide loopholes, these should be revoked," Camacho said. *Carlito Pablo and AFP*

Another bus falls; 1 dead

BAGUIO CITY—A Dagupan City-bound bus with 52 passengers plunged into a 20-meter deep ravine late afternoon Tuesday in Pugo, La Union, about a kilometer away from the giant Marcos bust, reports said.

Reports said a woman, about 60 years old, was killed instantly. At least 40 other passengers were rescued and taken to the Baguio Medical Center and other hospitals in the city.

The Victory Liner bus No. 120 left this city shortly after 4:45 p.m. for Dagupan. It was negotiating the rain-soaked Marcos Highway at about 5:30 p.m. when its front tire burst, skidded and plunged into the ravine shortly after passing the view deck of the Marcos Park.

The site at Barangay Palina is an accident-prone area, police said.

The rain hampered rescuers from retrieving bodies of victims from the fallen bus.

The accident came three days after a Bicol-bound bus plunged down a 30-foot ravine in the mountain town of Tagkawayan in Quezon Sunday morning, killing 33 people. *Frank Cimatu and Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

For your most loveable ones, give them the best and safest in shower technology from STIEBEL ELTRON

The world's largest manufacturer of instant water heaters. Established in 1924, Germany.

Sole Agent: DEXTERTON INDUSTRIAL CORP.
157 Sgt. E. Rivera St. (Near Damar Village) Quezon City
Tel.: 362-1111 ; 361-6006 Fax No.362-0524
E-mail :dexterton@dexterton.com www.dexterton.com

Contact us for the location of our dealer nearest your area.

Going after cheats will raise more taxes—Recto

By Cynthia D. Balana

"REWRITING the tax laws would raise a little money, but throwing the book on tax evaders would raise more," Sen. Ralph Recto said yesterday, by way of assessing Malacañang's proposal to raise the taxes on cigarettes and alcoholic beverages.

Recto said it would hardly help in plugging the government's budget deficit, estimated at P200 billion by next year.

The money that the move would generate, P7 billion at most, would be "just a drop in the bucket," he said.

Despite his reservations, the solon said he was "withholding judgment" on the merits of the Palace-drafted bill increasing the excise tax on alcohol and tobacco products.

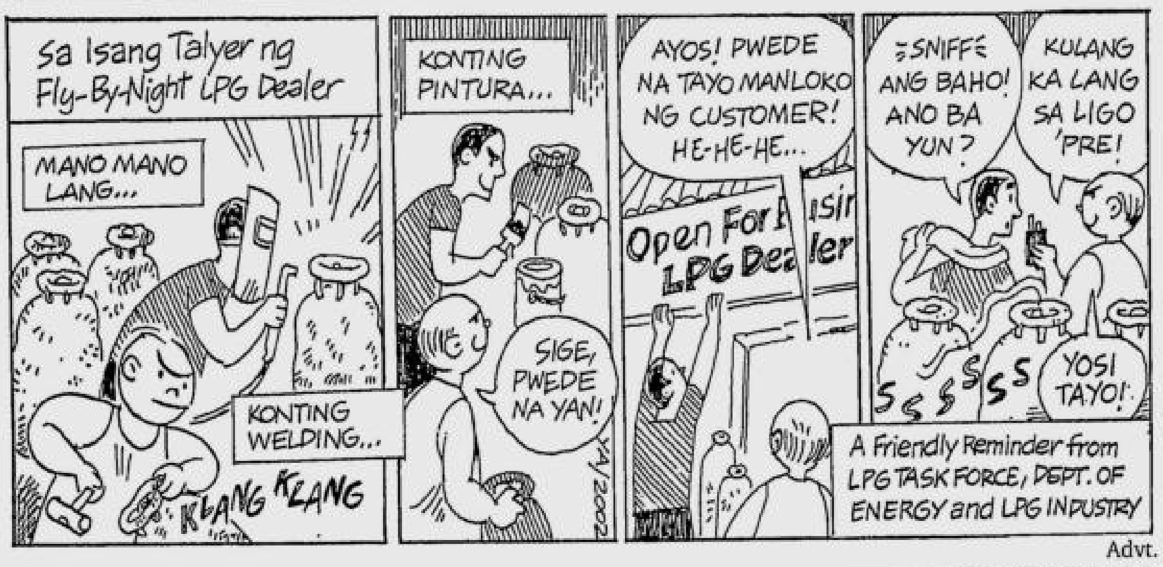
Under the Constitution, tax measures emanate from the House of Representatives, and are referred to the Senate for approval.

In its proposed national budget for next year, Malacañang explained that reform in "sin" taxes would plug leakages in that sector and boost total tax takes. It said the increase was necessary to shore up faltering collections.

To raise the P7 billion, Malacañang was looking at "restructuring" the excise tax on distilled spirits by having in place a single tariff schedule "regardless of raw materials used."

In addition, the Palace was pushing for the indexing of the tax brackets every two years based on the same period's cumulative inflation rate, to make sure that the tariff rates reflect the changes in the price of the products.

Lastly, it was batting for the immediate "reclassification" (within the present tax structure) of alcoholic drinks based on their current net retail price, followed by automatic reclassification every two years.


Sa Isang Talyer ng Fly-By-Night LPG Dealer
MANO MANO LANG...
KONTING WELDING...
KLANG KLANG
KONTING PINTURA...
SIGE, PWEDE NA YAN!
YAY 2002
AYOS! PWEDE NA TAYO MANLOKO NG CUSTOMER! HE-HE-HE...
Open For Business LPG Dealer
≶SNIFF≶ ANG BAHO! ANO BA YUN?
KULANG KA LANG SA LIGO 'PRE!
YOSI TAYO!
A Friendly Reminder from LPG TASK FORCE, DEPT. OF ENERGY and LPG INDUSTRY

Advt.

DAR chief trades barbs with solon

AGRARIAN Reform Secretary Hernani Braganza and Nueva Ecija Rep. Raul Villareal figured in a shouting match at the House session floor last night during plenary deliberations on the proposed national budget.

Braganza said the argument centered on a P22.3-million farm-to-market road project in San Antonio, Nueva Ecija, whose bidding Villareal wanted stopped because of alleged anomalies.

He said Speaker Jose de Venecia had urged him to talk to Villareal because the Nueva Ecija congressman was blocking approval of the DAR's proposed budget for 2003.

Braganza said Villareal had earlier asked him to stop the bidding of the Asian Development Bank-assisted project but he had told the latter to write a formal complaint so he could order an investigation.

The bidding for the construction of the 5-km road intended for agarian reform beneficiaries was held on Nov. 6.

Braganza said that during their talk, Villareal insisted on a re-bidding and lost his temper when the DAR secretary reiterated his earlier position.

"Are you playing me for a fool?" Braganza quoted Villareal as saying in Filipino, making him lose his temper too.

After other legislators intervened, Braganza stepped out of the session hall to cool off.

The DAR chief said he would file a complaint against Villareal before the House ethics committee. *Christine Avendaño*

RP bans Aussie beef importation

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE BUREAU of Animal Industry has suspended the importation of beef from Australia, after an outbreak of the deadly anthrax virus in a ranch in the state of Victoria.

"We see it necessary to suspend the issuance of clearances for beef imports from Australia while we study the extent of the anthrax contamination," said an official from the BAI, the quarantine arm of the Department of Agriculture.

The anthrax bacteria is known to be extremely dangerous and could be fatal to humans.

Australia has been the main source of beef for the Philippines since the mad-cow disease outbreak in Europe several years ago. Local meat importers have brought in 15.68 million metric tons of beef from Australia this year alone.

The Philippine Association of Meat Processors Inc., whose members include fast-food restaurants like Jollibee and McDonald's, said it would comply with the BAI's action.

"We would definitely comply, but we will wait for the BAI's instructions. If beef from all of Australia is banned, we would definitely look for other sources of beef products," said Pampi executive director Francisco Buencamino.

Anthrax is a bacterial disease that is normally associated with plant-eating animals like sheep, goats and cattle.

Reports said the Australian Department of Natural Resources and Environment had quarantined a ranch in Swan Hill, about 350 kilometers northwest of Melbourne, after an animal was found to be positive for the disease.

The infected carcass was incinerated and the rest of the cattle on the property were vaccinated. The ranch will be quarantined for 42 days, with no animals allowed to leave it during this time.

Several senators yesterday reacted to the anthrax outbreak.

Sen. Edgardo Angara asked the Department of Agriculture to continue to monitor developments in Australia to determine the extent of our import restrictions on beef and feeder cattle from that country.

Sen. Manny Villar said it would be best for local consumers to buy local beef with the onset of the Christmas season. He also appealed to meat traders to strictly monitor their imports.

For her part, Sen. Teresa Aquino-Oreta said the government should check on beef imports from Australia from time to time to make sure that no anthrax-contaminated beef reaches the tables of Filipinos. *With Cynthia D. Balana*

APC Back-UPS CS: The best PC power protection

APC Back-UPS CS®
As low as P633+/mo*

Buy APC Back-UPS CS in 6 monthly installments at 0% interest!
PayLite
beetlemania
citibank

The only UPS to offer advanced features plus free on-site services

When it comes to protecting your PC against damaging power problems like blackouts, surges and spikes, you need to invest in the best UPS available – you need an APC Back-UPS® CS. Low quality power protection will not adequately shield your PC against all the different kinds of power problems. Why expose your valuable hardware and data to such risks?

For added peace of mind, the Back-UPS CS also comes with a hassle-free 2-year, on-site replacement warranty. Now there is no need to travel to a service center for any repair or maintenance procedures - APC comes to you.

Back-UPS CS: offering peace of mind with the best value in advanced desktop power protection.

- ☎ Telephone, fax, modem and DSL line surge protection protects your PC while online
- USB and serial connectivity ensures compatibility with all equipment
- ● FREE auto shutdown software saves files in the event of an extended blackout
- 3 battery and surge outlets and 1 surge outlet provide protection for all your equipment
- ❷ 2-year on-site replacement warranty includes battery, spare parts and labor

Over the years, APC has received more than 150 awards worldwide for reliability and innovation of solutions - more than any other UPS manufacturer. With more than 12 million satisfied customers, APC protects more computers worldwide than any other brand. You deserve the Legendary Reliability™ and peace of mind that only APC can provide.

Beyond Power Protection.

APC
Legendary Reliability™

FREE Back-UPS CS product information

☐ YES! Please send me FREE APC Back-UPS CS product information.
☐ YES! I want to purchase APC Back-UPS CS. Please have an APC representative contact me today.

Name:
Job Title:
Company:
Address:
City/Town:
Postal Code:
Phone:
Fax:
E-mail:
How many PCs do you want to protect?
☐ Corporate End User ☐ SOHO ☐ Reseller

Fax now at (+632) 637 5580 or call (+632) 637 5457

APC Philippines: Unit 2602, The Orient Square, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
©2002 American Power Conversion Corporation. All Trademarks are the property of their respective owners. BK4H2EF-PH
Merchants: Electro world, Silicon Valley, TCA, Villman Per DTI-NCR Permit no. 3668 Series of 2002 Key Code 40566a

www.apc.com/ph

Reyes dares critics to take MLSA to SC

By Martin P. Marfil and Norman Bordadora

DEFENSE Secretary Angelo Reyes yesterday dared critics of the Mutual Logistics Support Agreement to take their grievances to the Supreme Court.

Reyes said critics of the MLSA apparently have not read the agreement but based their opposition on things that were not even in the document.

"They can challenge it before the Supreme Court... that is the proper venue to air all of this," Reyes said, when asked to comment on reports some senators had wanted to treat the MLSA like a treaty that needed their approval.

For his part, Foreign Secretary Blas Ople said that leaders of Congress had been informed of the salient provisions of the MLSA months before it was signed.

"Contrary to published reports that Congress was not briefed on the MLSA, I would like to recall that on Aug. 6, Secretary Reyes and I briefed an enlarged (Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council) meeting... on what we intended the MLSA to be," Ople said in a statement yesterday.

He said that during the Ledac meeting in Malacañang, it was explained that the MLSA would not commit the Philippines to obligations "of a substantive nature" that would make the agreement a treaty.

ANTI-TERROR MEASURE

‘Explosive’ fertilizer material banned

By Gerald G. Lacuarta and Christine A. Gaylican

IN THE face of the prevailing terrorism threat, the Department of Agriculture has banned the importation of ammonium nitrate, a compound normally used as a soil nutrient and mango flower inducer but which is a major ingredient in bomb-making.

Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor said the Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority which he chairs approved the import ban in a board meeting on Nov. 22. The ban takes effect 15 days after publication in a major newspaper.

“We decided to impose the ban for the sake of national security. One way to incapacitate terrorists is to plug their access to materials in making explosives,” Montemayor said.

Police reports have indicated that the bombs used by terrorists that killed scores in Zamboanga del Norte and over 180 people in Bali, Indonesia last month were made of ammonium nitrate.

Recently, the Philippine Navy intercepted a boat carrying 50 sacks of the compound in Palawan. It was believed the shipment was to be used in making explosives for dynamite fishing.

Montemayor said that with the import ban, farmers who use the compound as fertilizer could substitute potassium nitrate, urea and other nitrate fertilizers such as calcium nitrate and sodium nitrate.

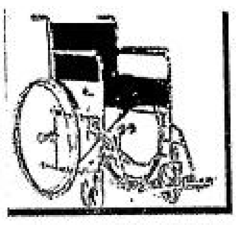
Potassium nitrate is actually more widely used as a flower inducer than ammonium nitrate. The country has imported 4,252.2 metric tons of the former this year compared to 180 metric tons of the latter, he said.

But for existing supplies legally in the hands of farmers, “we are implementing a six-month phase-out period,” Montemayor said.

He said the current stock of ammonium nitrate in the country, the bulk of which is in the hands of mango growers, could still be used legally until May 2003.

With the ban, the license given by the FPA to two companies, Sytengco and Mandarin Chemicals, to import ammonium nitrate will not be renewed, he said.

IMPORTED WHEELCHAIR



- Fixed armrests
- Frame coated in dark blue color
- 8"/24" solid wheels

COMFORT WHEELCHAIR

STAR MILLS PAMPANGA
2nd Flr. (45) 636-3513

SM MANILA
5TH FLR. 484-1471

FAR EAST MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

SM MEGAMALL	SM FAIRVIEW	SM NORTH EDSA
5th Flr., Bldg. A 635-04-36	Basement 418-75-40	Car Park Plaza 453-3326
CEBU 262-32-39	SM SOUTHMALL Basement 800 40 93	ROBINSONS GALLERIA Basement 635-5061

The Best Selling Air Purifier In The World Is Now Here...

OVER 4 MILLION UNITS SOLD WORLDWIDE

Have your home free from dust, smoke, odors, mold, mildew, pollen, bacteria, pet dander and bio pollutants for a clean fresh mountain air for a healthy home.

Great product for respiratory problems.

THE PENTAGON USED OUR PRODUCTS TO REMOVE THE SMOKE AND FOUL ODOR AFTER THE 9/11 ATTACK

CLASSIC

ELECTRONIC PARTICULATE IONIZER (EPI+) FLAIR PEAK REFRESH BORA

Outstanding Benefits

1. No filter replacements and no after cost.
2. Competitively priced and wider coverage area.
3. Superior features and easy to install.
4. Consumes only 30 watts of electricity.
5. Multiple uses. These portable machines will take care of your home, office, restaurant, bar, kitchen, bathroom, closets, shoes, mattresses, dens, and CARS too. Applications are practically endless.

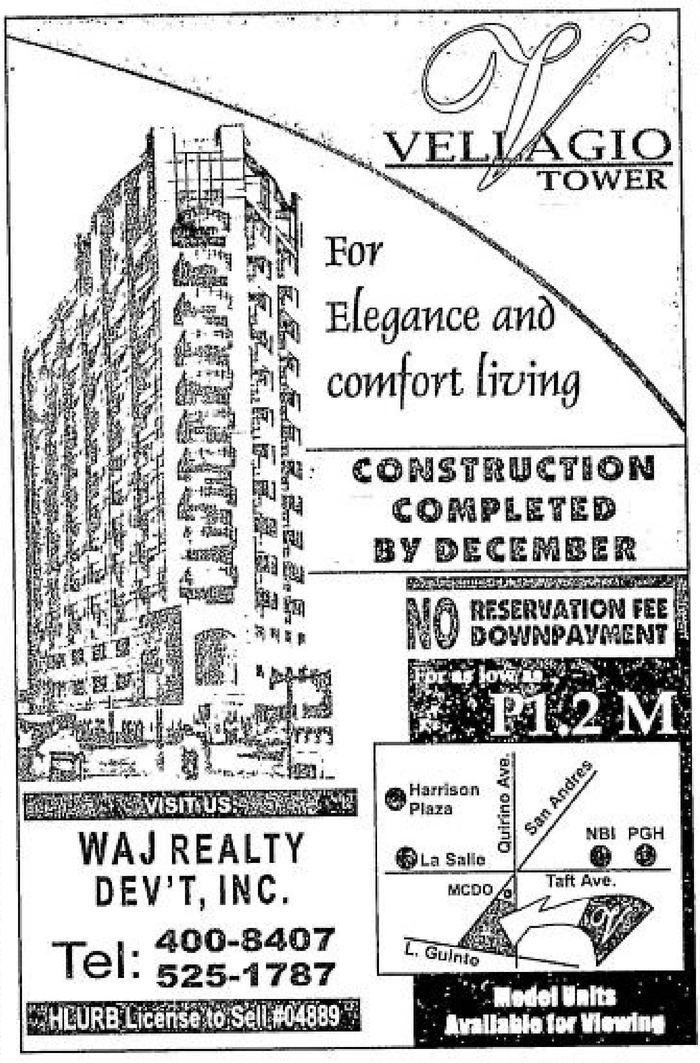
MADE IN U.S.A.

EAGLE
Best for bars, restaurants, labs, clinics, bowling alleys, billiard halls, hospitals, hotels, etc. in eliminating smoke and odors.

ODOR BLASTER
Perfect for strong, smelly, musty, offensive smell and wherever pollutants are present or business establishments that produce extreme odors.

Visit / Call us in our Showroom for more details.

Suite 8, Y-Square Bldg., Mayapis cor. Malugay St., Makati City
☎ 812-0040 • 894-4419



VELLAGIO TOWER

For Elegance and comfort living

CONSTRUCTION COMPLETED BY DECEMBER

NO RESERVATION FEE
NO DOWNPAYMENT

For as low as P1.2 M

Model Units Available for Viewing

VISIT US

WAJ REALTY DEV'T, INC.

Tel: 400-8407
525-1787

HLURB License to Sell #04889

hansgrohe® sanitary fitting

DURAVIT sanitary ware

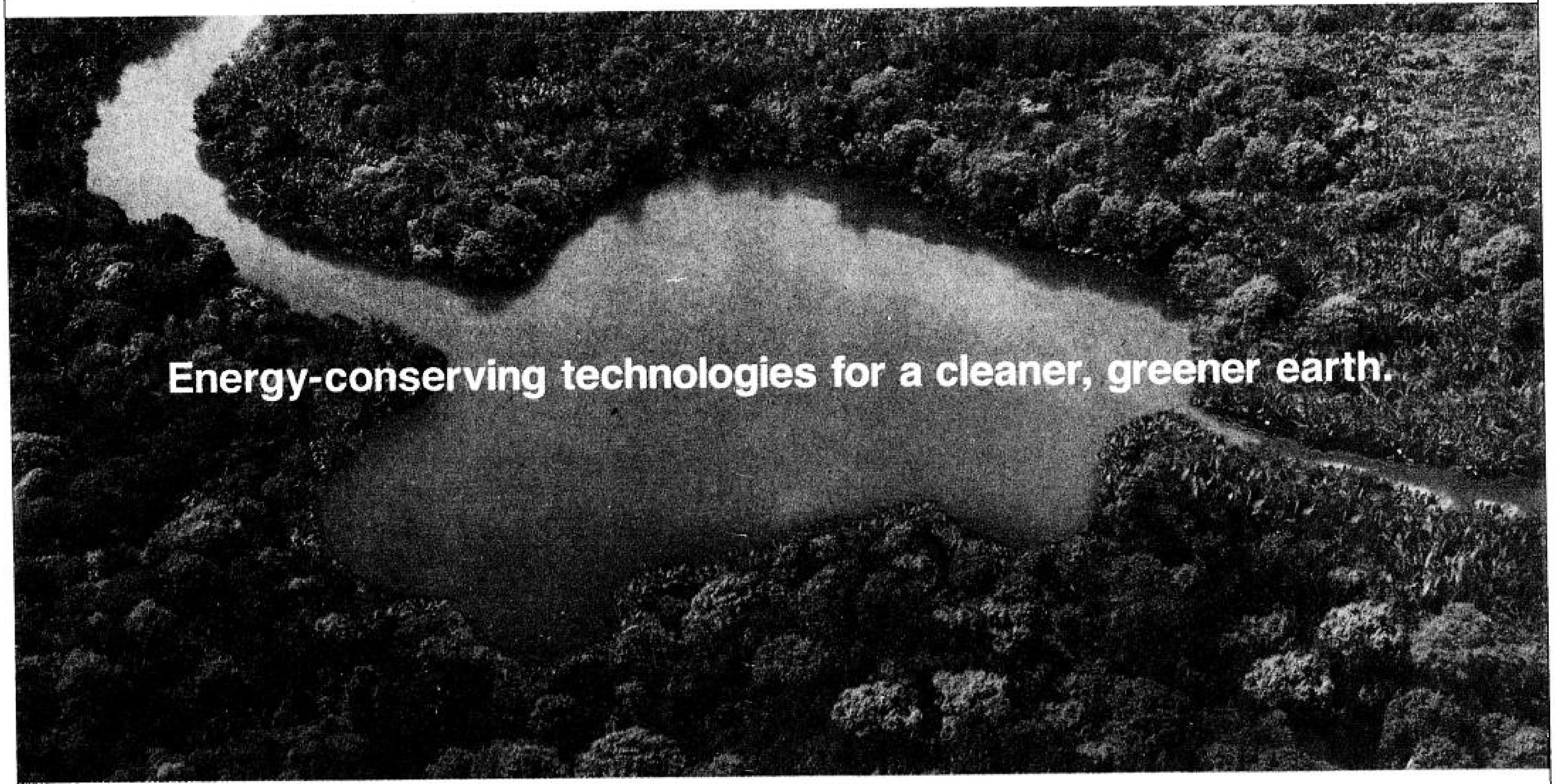
Designers

Philippe Starck • Michael Graves • Norman Foster

"The only choice for excellent bathroom fixtures, designed by world-class architects and designers."

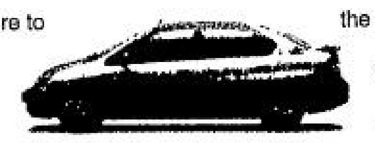
KUYSEN BATH GALLERY

Home Buddies Section, Level 4, Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, Makati City
7295530 • 7293595



Energy-conserving technologies for a cleaner, greener earth.

At Toyota, innovative new technologies are providing solutions for more economical — and ecological — driving.



The outstanding fuel efficiency of Toyota vehicles isn't just the result of our desire to make driving more economical, it's a direct reflection of our global commitment to environmental protection. And you can see that commitment at work right here in the Philippines, where the VVT-i engines that power the Toyota Corolla Altis, Camry, and RAV4 deliver world-class performance with outstanding fuel economy. We're also leading the way in ultra-low-emission technologies with cars like the Toyota Prius sedan, the world's first mass-produced gasoline-electric hybrid vehicle, which delivers an astonishing 31.0 kilometers per liter.* From here-and-now solutions that are on the road today, to advanced hybrid and fuel-cell technologies that promise a cleaner, greener tomorrow, our commitment to energy conservation is as vast as the earth itself.

*Japan-spec Prius based on Japanese 10-15 mode testing. Actual mileage may vary.

TOYOTA

www.toyota.com.ph
www.toyota.co.jp

Boy Wonder of RP politics would have been 70 today

From page A1

nand) Marcos, the plans of the (Philippine) opposition. Everyone else values what I have to say. (ABC news anchor) Ted Koppel is interviewing me in a few days. *Siguro naman,* you'll watch that."

"Maybe. Okay, I'll watch it," I said. "Ninoy, I've told you over and over, I really don't care about politics. There were years when I didn't even read the papers, and I never felt I was missing out on anything."

"C'mon," he said, disbelieving.

"Honestly," I said. "Since I came to New York, I've been discovering myself, meeting incredible people, learning new ways of thinking and being. I feel like I'm just out of college. I'm bursting with life! So why, in God's name, would I be interested in Marcos?"

For a moment there was silence. The wind was strong now, and leaves scurried across the windshield. We were stopped by a traffic light.

He turned to me, and I saw a soft smile lighting up his face. "I'm so glad to know you," he said. "I can talk to you about my soul. We can speak of my inner journey. You would appreciate that. I've been trying to converse with anyone about how I met God, how I commune with Him. But no one hears my longing. No one believes that I'm more than just a political animal."

"I know how it feels to meet God," I said.

But he didn't seem to notice that I had spoken, so eager was he to express himself. Words spilled out of him like water from a pipe that had burst wide open.

The sky's language

"When I was in (Fort) Bonifacio, I lived in a box," Ninoy said. "Well, that's what it felt like. There was an opening with bars, supposed to be a window, just big enough for me to get some air.

"It was my connection to the outside. But it was high, and there was this sheet of plywood, so I could only see a bit of sky. I used to look out and try to learn its language. A hint of dawn, and I'd sense the kind of day it was going to be. Every dusk was different, every passing cloud. Try this: Look at the sky. What's it saying to you?"

Before I had time to reflect and reply, he continued: "After a while, I was able to discern the sounds around me—the rustle of leaves when a storm was brewing, who were speaking, which guard was walking past my room.

"You become extremely sensitive when you're alone. I was there a long time, you know."

It began to drizzle. "This kind of rain always reminds me of home," he mused.

His voice suddenly playful, he said: "I can't mention this to just anyone. Maybe 10 years after I'm gone, you can tell your friends. By then, who'd care?"

A slight pause, and then he confided: "I had a pet in my room. Yeah, a pet! He was all mine, the guards couldn't even touch him. I used to talk to him about God. We had profound conversations. Gosh, we had great times together!"

He laughed, and it was delightful to see him so happy.

"Know what?" he said. "My pet was a mouse!"

I shrieked.

Fascination

"Listen," Ninoy said, recalling how it began. "One night I saw this dark gray mouse running around. Then he disappeared under the door. A few days later he came back. I was really fascinated—part of my curious nature.

"Anyway, I decided to experiment and left some food in a corner. When he came again I didn't move. I watched him eat. I did this several times. One day I sat very close to him, and he didn't wriggle away. He continued eating. So I tamed him until I was able to keep him still and talk to him."

He chuckled and shook his head. "Now, how can I tell this to anyone?" he demanded. "'*Nasira na talaga si* Ninoy (He's gone nuts).' I can hear it."

"You must have reinvented yourself in prison," I said. "Great men do. Maybe you didn't even know how strong you were."

He was adamant: "My strength came from God. No other way."

"Let me tell you something else," he said, switching gears. "For a time I was moved to Fort Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija. I felt degraded there, like I was a real prisoner. My family would visit and there was barbed wire between us.

"My cell didn't have a bathroom. If I wanted to take a shower or use the toilet, I had to signal the guards to let me out. Sometimes they were cruel and wouldn't open the door."

"Oh, my God," I gasped, "how humiliating."

"*Anong* (What do you mean) humiliating?" he said. "There came a point when I was nothing. I had nothing, not even humiliation. I remember coming back to my room one night after being watched in the toilet, and feeling so small. I had become a nonperson. *Wala na, tapos na* (It was over). I had no dignity left."

Liberation

"All of a sudden," Ninoy said, "like a miracle I felt free. Liberated from this shell of a body. Released from my prison, from Marcos, from everything that had ever held me hostage.

"It was my Pentecost. I met God and experienced His power. I felt the descent of grace they talk about, and I became a different man."

"You were in touch with your inner self," I said.

"And I could find that self because I was alone," he said. "That's when I got the raw courage, the divine fearlessness, to go on my hunger strike. I was ready to die, but it wasn't time."

We drove on in silence. The sun was radiant once again, and the wooded fields were exquisite.

Then wistfully, Ninoy said: "You know, sometimes I miss that doggone mouse. Funny, but he became a real friend to me. He knew how to listen, and I felt understood.

"Unbelievable. Oh yeah, we had good times together, he and I, we sure did."

Soon the Logan airport came into view. Ninoy swerved to the driveway of the terminal building, slowing down as we approached.

He stopped the car and came around to open my door. He took both my hands and pressed them warmly, saying as he did so: "Take care of yourself, and thank you."

"Thank you," I said. "Thanks for everything. See you on TV!"

Even then, I knew it was a day I would long remember.

The author, a former president of the Metropolitan Museum of Manila, met Ninoy when the ex-senator and his family were living in Boston and she in New York. -ED.

KOHLER® Portrait Suite
The Epitome of Charm
Portrait Suite
PORTRAIT SELF-RIMMING LAVATORY
MEMOIRS LITE
MEMOIRS PEDESTAL LAVATORY
MEMOIRS SELF-RIMMING LAVATORY
SAN RAPHAEL
CAXTON
WELLWORTH LITE
COUTURE LITE
FOLIO LITE
FOLIO PEDESTAL LAVATORY
FOLIO LAVATORY
SANTA ROSA
KOHLER's TRUSTED PARTNER SINCE1969
LUXURY MADE AFFORDABLE
LOWEST PRICES GUARANTEED!
Home of the World's Most Celebrated Brands
JOSOL Home Decor Improvement Center, Inc.
IDC Bldg., E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave., Ugong Norte, Q.C.
Tel. No.: 637-5871-74 • 634-2990 • 631-1807-08
Josol Rockwell 756-5107 • Josol Southmall 800-3191 • Josol Bacoor (046) 417-7464
for inquiries, e-mail: customercare@josolhome.com

DepEd to revise Roco curriculum

From page A1

but that it would have to be revised starting next year based on the "best practices" and weaknesses that teachers had observed.

Roco insisted during his term that the BEC be implemented this schoolyear despite the misgivings of many teachers who said they needed more time to prepare for it. Under the restructured program, the curriculum was reduced to five learning areas or key school subjects: Filipino, English, Makabayan, science and mathematics. Makabayan, also called the "laboratory of life" learning area, is composed of seemingly unrelated subjects such as social studies, technology and home economics, physical education, health and music, and values education.

It is in the Makabayan subjects that teachers are obliged to make the biggest adjustment because these have to be integrated and treated as one subject with only one grade.

But De Jesus said: "It is too early to say how many of these changes will be institutionalized." He said that the "best practices being followed in different areas" were being observed, and that "it will take a little bit of time (to know) which of the practices will be replicated nationwide."

"This is still the pilot year," he pointed out, adding that the DepEd was still "getting feedback from the field" about the experience in following the restructured program.

The BEC is just one of the problems that De Jesus is grappling with as education secretary. The continuing exodus of good teachers overseas is another.

Sen. Edgardo Angara yesterday said he had received reports that the entire faculty of a Catholic school in Bukidnon was being recruited to teach in Texas at salaries too attractive to refuse.

Angara said local recruiters had teamed up with their foreign counterparts to carry out the massive hiring of Filipino teachers for other schools in the United States.

He said the exodus of good teachers was inflicting a heavy toll on Philippine education that was now "sliding into mediocrity."

Evolving

De Jesus said the DepEd would follow the thrust of the BEC, which had been in the planning stage for years.

But he said that its implementation would be continuously evolving, and that there would have to be revisions next year and the years after that.

"You don't really have a locked-step system that every teacher has to follow in the classroom," De Jesus said when asked about the possible revisions next year. "The teacher has to adapt his or her teaching style to the environment, to the kind of students."

Education Undersecretary Fe Hidalgo said the DepEd had been receiving reports from the field on how teachers and regional directors viewed the radical integration of the subjects.

"They continue to report good practices that they are doing," Hidalgo said. "We are trying to consolidate all of these. And we are also trying to consolidate the areas where (teachers) have some difficulties."

She added that "so far, the feedback is toward improving, and not changing, what is there at this stage."

Before De Jesus took up the education portfolio, groups of teachers and academicians aired calls for the scrapping of Roco's version of the BEC.

The Educators Forum for Development chaired by University of the Philippines professor Bienvenido Lumbera and the Alliance of Concerned Teachers said the "rushed" program would do the public education system more damage than good.

Brain drain

Angara, a former president of the UP, said the best and the brightest in Philippine basic education were "packing their bags in big numbers."

"This is how serious the ongoing brain drain in the teaching profession is now," he said.

According to the senator, recruiters have moved to the provinces, including remote areas in the Visayas and Mindanao, to hire good teachers.

He said the large-scale departure of Filipino teachers was a major problem that the government could not solve.

"We cannot invoke love of country because this government cannot offer them anything, not even the promise of a better life," Angara said. "And when they leave to work abroad, they send the money that props up the national economy during its worst times, like now."

Angara has filed a bill in the Senate seeking to increase to P15,000 the entry-level pay for public school teachers, but the measure has been snagged by budgetary problems.

Even a resolution asking the executive department to implement an across-the-board review of pay scales in the government has been tabled indefinitely, Angara said.

He also said that the "glaring under-investment" in Philippine education was being felt throughout the education community, and that this was another disincentive for the best in the teaching profession. *With a report from Cynthia D. Balana*

Republic of the Philippines
Supreme Court
Manila

EN BANC

RESOLUTION

AMENDMENT ON THE CLARIFICATION ON THE LEGAL FEES TO BE COLLECTED IN CASES OF CORPORATE REHABILITATION AS PROVIDED IN A.M. NO. 00-8-10-SC

WHEREAS, in a Resolution issued by this Court on 04 September 2001, entitled "Clarification On The Legal Fees To Be Collected And The Applicable Period Of Appeal In Cases Formerly Cognizable By The Securities And Exchange Commission," it is provided that petitions for rehabilitation of corporations should be considered as a special proceeding and the amount of filing fees should be assessed in accordance with Section 7(d), Rule 141 of the Revised Rules of Court; and

WHEREAS, in order not to heavily burden corporations applying for rehabilitation, a more equitable schedule of legal fees is desirable.

WHEREFORE, the Court has resolved to adopt a new schedule of filing fees; viz:

1. **Rates of Filing Fee. –**
   For initiating special proceedings for rehabilitation under the Interim Rules of Procedure on Corporate Rehabilitation, the fees payable shall be collected in accordance with the value of the assets of, or amount of monetary claims against, the debtor, whichever is lower, which must be declared in the Petition, as follows:

1.1.	Less than P10,000,000.00	10,000.00
1.2.	P10,000,000.00 or more but less than P20,000,000.00	20,000.00
1.3.	P20,000,000.00 or more but less than P30,000,000.00	30,000.00
1.4.	P30,000,000.00 or more but less than P40,000,000.00	40,000.00
1.5	P40,000,000.00 or more but less than P50,000,000.00	50,000.00
1.6.	P50,000,000.00 or more but less than P60,000,000.00	60,000.00
1.7.	P60,000,000.00 or more but less than P70,000,000.00	70,000.00
1.8	P70,000,000.00 or more but less than P80,000,000.00	80,000.00
1.9	P80,000,000.00 or more but less than P90,000,000.00	90,000.00
1.10	P90,000,000.00 or more but less than P100,000,000.00	100,000.00
1.11	For each P10,000.00 in excess of P100,000,000.00	10.00

2. **Manner of Payment. –**

2.1. Fees amounting to P100,000.00 or less shall be paid upon the filing of the petition.

2.2. Fees in excess of P100,000.00 may be paid on staggered basis as follows:

- 2.2.1. P100,000.00 shall be paid upon filing of the petition;
- 2.2.2. The balance shall be paid in accordance with the following schedule:
  - 2.2.2.1. 25% shall be paid upon the issuance of an order giving due course to the petition.
  - 2.2.2.2. 25% shall be paid upon approval of the Rehabilitation Plan; and
  - 2.2.2.3. The balance of 50% shall be included as part of the preferred payables to be settled in the Rehabilitation Plan.

A.M. No. 00-8-10-56, entitled "Clarification On The Legal Fees To Be Collected And The Applicable Period Of Appeal In Cases Formerly Cognizable By The Securities And Exchange Commission," is hereby modified accordingly.

This Resolution shall take effect on December 10, 2002, and it shall be published in two (2) newspapers of general circulation not later than November 25, 2002.

HILARIO G. DAVIDE, JR.
Chief Justice

JOSUE N. BELLOSILLO
Associate Justice

REYNATO S. PUNO
Associate Justice

JOSE C. VITUG
Associate Justice

VICENTE V. MENDOZA
Associate Justice

ARTEMIO V. PANGANIBAN
Associate Justice

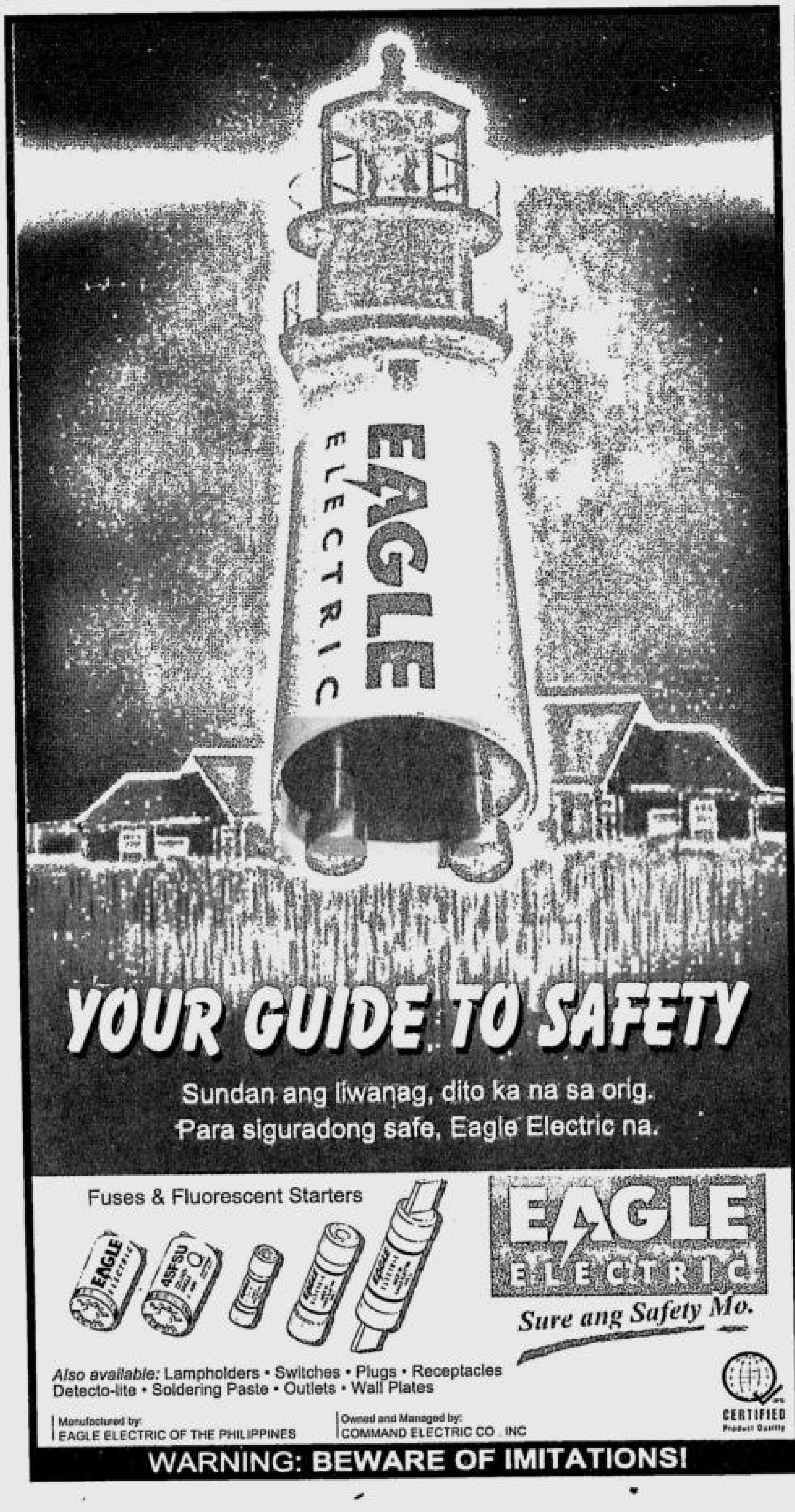
LEONARDO A. QUISUMBING
Associate Justice

CONSUELO YNARES-SANTIAGO
Associate Justice

ANGELINA SANDOVAL-GUTIERREZ
Associate Justice

ANTONIO T. CARPIO
Associate Justice

MA. ALICIA AUSTRIA-MARTINEZ
Associate Justice



Sundan ang liwanag, dito ka na sa orig.
Para siguradong safe, Eagle Electric na.
Fuses & Fluorescent Starters
EAGLE ELECTRIC
Sure ang Safety Mo.
Also available: Lampholders • Switches • Plugs • Receptacles
Detecto-lite • Soldering Paste • Outlets • Wall Plates
Manufactured by: EAGLE ELECTRIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Owned and Managed by: COMMAND ELECTRIC CO., INC
CERTIFIED Product Quality
WARNING: BEWARE OF IMITATIONS!

'STINKER' OF A DEAL

Stay off Naia 3 row, Iglesia told

A MULTI-SECTORAL coalition opposing the operation of the Naia Terminal 3 by the Piatco has asked the Iglesia ni Cristo to refrain from interfering in the proposed opening of the controversial airport facility.

The "Scrap Piatco Deal Coalition," through spokesperson Romy Sauler and Secretary General Ed Oredina, accused Piatco vice president Moises Tolentino, a known Iglesia ni Cristo leader, of using the influence of the religious group to pressure Malacañang into approving the opening of the Naia 3 in spite of the legal and extra legal problems.

In a press statement, the anti-Piatco coalition appealed to the hierarchy of the Iglesia ni Cristo and President Macapagal-Arroyo to respect the rule of law and ensure that all the legal and procedural issues and infirmities in the contract are respected and enforced.

'High pressure tactics'

The coalition is composed of the Philippine Airlines Employees Association (Palea) represented by Sauler and Oredina; Akbayan Rep. Etta Rosales; National Federation of Labor (Naflu) represented by Ilde Silva; Miascor Workers Union lead by Demostenes Agan Jr.; Alliance of Progressive Labor (APL) leader Danilo Fuentes; Alab Katipunan led by Lejun de la Cruz; Move Clark Movement led by Ireneo "Bong" Alvaro and the Duty Free Shops Union led by Esmer Navarro.

The anti-Piatco coalition assailed Tolentino for "resorting to high pressure tactics through his reported enlisting of INC support in the Piatco controversy.

"This is highly condemnable and is tantamount to blackmailing the Arroyo administration in the light of the 2004 elections and the current problems besetting the nation."

"The Piatco deal is a stinker, a highly questionable and odious contract that cannot be salvaged nor fast-tracked through the influence and clout of one of the country's major religious groups. We ask that the INC leadership dissociate itself from this controversial and malodorous contract and refrain from muscling Malacañang and other government officials and agencies to approve the operation of the Naia 3 terminal," the coalition statement said.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, November 27, 2002
34th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Rev 15:1-4
Gospel: Lk 21:12-19

Jesus said to his disciples, "People will lay their hands on you and persecute you; you will be delivered to the Jewish courts and put in prison, and for my sake you will be brought before kings and governors. This will be your opportunity to bear witness.

So keep this in mind: do not worry in advance about what to answer, for I will give you words and wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict.

You will be betrayed even by parents, and brothers, by relatives and friends, and some of you will be put to death. But even though you are hated by all for my name's sake, not a hair of your head will perish. Through perseverance you will possess your own selves."

Commentary

The accounts of the last moments of many martyrs of our faith speak of a special presence of the Spirit, enlightening and strengthening those persons in extremely difficult situations. This is certain for martyrs of ancient times as well as for martyrs of the present time. Did you know that an average of two Christians (priests, religious, lay persons...) are murdered each month for their faith and for their struggles in favor of justice and of the oppressed? What's more important: it is a joy to ascertain the peace in which the immense majority of them live the final moments of their lives. Because of that, "do not worry in advance." Now, our daily task is to persevere in the faith.

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: claret@cn1.net; Websites: http://www.bible.claret.org (Claretian Publications Inc.) & http://missionaries.claret.org (Claretians in the Philippines)

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

JUDICIAL ETHICS—**Delay in administration of justice**—The Code of Judicial Conduct requires a judge to dispose of the court's business promptly by deciding cases and matters within the required period of 90 days from the date of their submission for decision, as mandated by the Constitution. Verily, it is the sworn duty of judges to administer justice without undue delay under the time-honored precept that justice delayed is justice denied. The present clogged dockets on all levels of our judicial system cannot be cleared, unless each and every magistrate earnestly, painstakingly and faithfully complies with the mandate of the law. Judges should act with dispatch in resolving pending incidents, so as not to frustrate and delay the satisfaction of a judgment. Their inaction or procrastination to act one way or another gives room for suspicion that they are biased. As dispensers of justice, they should act in such a manner as to avoid suspicion, so that faith in the administration of justice may be preserved. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Panganiban, Third Division, Office of the Court Administrator v. Sayo, Jr., A. M. Nos. RTJ-00-1587 & 1540, May 7, 2002] DIGEST BY R. B. VERA

X-MAS VACATIONS PROMO
Guided Shopping Tours 4 days
SHANGHAI-Dec. 12 $ 409
HONGKONG + 1 NITE SHENZEN $ 245 Dep. Dec. 22 & 29
HONGKONG + 1 NITE MACAU $ 309 Dep. Dec. 22 & 29
BANGKOK $ 308 Dep. Dec. 13, 19 & 20 $ 399 Dec. 21, 26, 27 & 28 dep.
SINGAPORE $ 306
SEOUL $ 712 Dec. 26

CRUISES
Dec. 29 - Jan. 1 from $ 520
Dec. 25 - 28 from $ 460
Hongkong, China & Vietnam
Other cruises available

DOMESTIC TOURS
Corregidor, Pagsanjan, Boracay, Palawan, Punta Baluarte, Ilocos + others

DISCOUNT ON DOMESTIC TICKETS

KUALA LUMPUR P9,999

BRUNEI: HARIRAYA VISIT PALACE TOUR Dec. 8-1 $ 630
INDIA: Taj Mahal, Delhi, Jaipur + Bkk $ 1,245

BANGKOK + ANKORWAT
Extn. MYANMAR Dec. 17-22

EXPERT VISA IMMIGRATION

Adam's EXPRESS TRAVEL
Serving lifetime memories
1131 Mabini, Manila • Tels.: 536-1736 to 37 • 522-3876 / 77 • 521-1638 / 51 / 98 • Fax: 521-2255

MAGIC SING
Fight Music Piracy!

The best value videoke mic just got better!

MAGIC SING VIDEOKE MICROPHONE

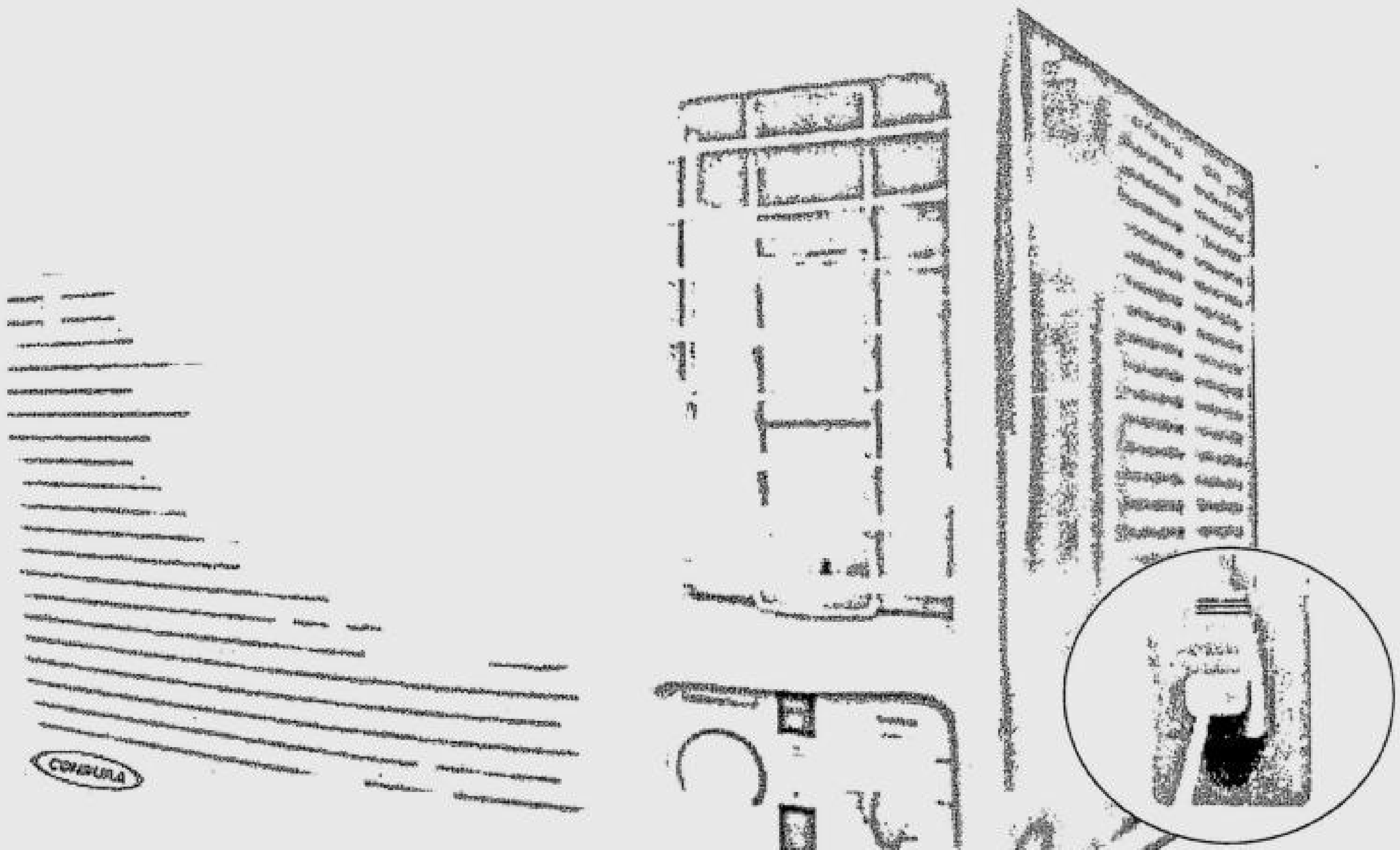
now with mic stand INCLUDED!*

*A P1,500 value!
• all-in-one Magic Sing karaoke unit
• user guide • songlist • RCA Cable
• AC adaptor • stand • carry bag

Duly licensed by: PARI

Available at:
• ALFOX AUDIO VIDEO COM (Ground Floor Pearl Lane / Virra Mall)
• AMAZON AV CENTER (Ground Flr. Ever Gotesco, Ortigas)
• AMBASSADOR APPLIANCES (Virra Mall, Cubao Farmers, Binondo, Shangri-la 2nd level, Glorietta II)
• A. SALONGA MUSIC (2nd Floor, Harrison Plaza)
• ANTIPOLO SERVICE CENTER (Antipolo City)
• AUDIO MAXX (Robinsons Marcos Highway & Novaliches)
• BASIC TRADING (Project 4, Q.C.)
• BETHEL MARKETING (Back of Farmers Market beside Hortaleza)
• CARMELA'S FAST FOOD (Santiago Blvd., Gen. Santos City)
• COLUMBIA APPLIANCES (Evangelista, Quiapo, Manila)
• CREATIVE CONCEPT (Fairview, Q.C.)
• EARL TOY WORLD (Cash & Carry Makati)
• E-Z MAGIC (SM Cebu City)
• GUANZON MERCHANDISING (Dagupan City)
• HANNAH TOKYO (Shoppesville Shopping Mall)
• HOTEL REMBRANDT (Tomas Morato, Q.C.)
• IMAGE VIDEO (Ground Floor, Harrison Plaza)
• IN-A-JIFFY ENTERPRISES (Malabon City, West Ave. Q.C., Manila)
• LISTENING ROOM (SM Megamall, Virra Mall)
• MARS TRADING (Better Living, Parañaque)
• MICRO-J (Sta. Lucia Mall)
• MULRIOLF ENTERPRISES (Biñan, Laguna)
• PROSOUND MARKETING (Evangelista, Quiapo)
• SIGHT & SOUND AUDIO VIDEO (Shangri-la EDSA, Mandaluyong / Parksquare I, Ayala Makati)
• SOUND QUEST ELECTRICAL CENTER (Raon, Quiapo)
• SPECTRA AUDIO VIDEO CENTER (Parksquare I, Ayala Center)
• V. DIVINA ENTERPRISES (GMA, Cavite)
• VICTRONICS COMPUTER CENTER (Makati Cinema Square)
.odyssey THE #1 MUSIC & VIDEO STORE (Available in all 60 branches nationwide)

Lalong
mas masarap
matulog...every night.

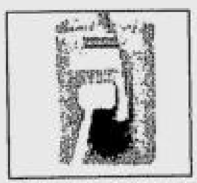


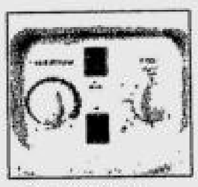
With the
Energy Saving Plug

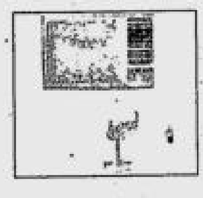
CONDURA SUPER TIPID

...HAS THE LOWEST POWER CONSUMPTION VERSUS OTHER BRANDS.

With its high Energy Efficiency Ratio (EER) and the lowest power consumption in its class, you get to enjoy as much as 20% savings on your monthly electric bill! What's more, you'll get an additonal 40% savings with our Energy Saving Plug* !


Plug the electric fan to the ESP


Set the timer.


When your air con automatically turns off, your electric fan automatically turns on.

897-5555 CONCEPCION-CARRIER CUSTOMER CARE

CONDURA
YOU HAVE A BETTER CHOICE

CONCEPCION-CARRIER
AIR CONDITIONING

*The Energy Saving Plug is found on models with the 12-hour timer and remote control

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph website: http://www.inq7.net

EUGENIA D. APOSTOL *Founding Chairman*

INQUIRER

Vol. 17 No. 352
ISSN
0116-2642

THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at
•Chino Roces Ave corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
•P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
•Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
•Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 •Advertising 897-4807
•Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 / 528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.

Publisher **ISAGANI YAMBOT**
Editor in Chief **LETTY JIMENEZ-MAGSANOC**
Managing Editor **JOSE MA. D. NOLASCO**
Associate Editor **ABELARDO S. ULANDAY**
News Editor **ARTEMIO T. ENGRACIA JR.**
Opinion Editor **JORGE V. ARUTA**
Assistant News Editor **NILO B. PAUROM**
National Editor **PERGENTINO B. BANDAYREL JR.**
City Editor **GERRY LIRIO**
Senior Desk Editor **ROSARIO A. GARCELLANO**
Editorial Consultant **AMANDO DORONILA**
Chief Photographer **ERNIE U. SARMIENTO**
Art & Design Director **LYNETT A. VILLARIBA**

Board Chairman **MARIXI R. PRIETO**
President **ALEXANDRA PRIETO-ROMUALDEZ**
Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing **RENATO R. REINOSO**
Senior Vice President for Corporate Services **DAVID O. VALDES**
VP for Advertising **FELIPE R. OLARTE**
AVP for Circulation **GLORIA P. LARDIZABAL**

All rights reserved. Subject to the conditions provided for by law, no article or photograph published by the Philippine Daily Inquirer may be reprinted or reproduced, in whole or in part, without its prior consent.

A story full of holes

EDITORIAL

MANILA Rep. Mark Jimenez has come forward to identify the "million-dollar man" in the Macapagal Cabinet as Justice Secretary Hernando Perez. But while his friend and colleague, Bulacan Rep. Willie Villarama, tried to shield himself against a possible libel suit by choosing his words and saying Perez might have a "connection with" or an "intimate knowledge" of the bribery, Jimenez made sure he was cloaked with parliamentary immunity when he directly accused the justice secretary of extortion.

In a privilege speech Monday, Jimenez claimed that he tried to buy "peace of mind" for his family by paying Perez $2 million in February last year. The money, he said, came from his account in a Uruguay bank and was transferred to an account, in the Coutts Bank in Hong Kong, owned by Ernest Escaler, a friend of Perez's. The bank documents pertaining to the transaction were in his possession, Jimenez said, and he would submit them to the Office of the Ombudsman when he filed a plunder case against Perez.

At least that part about the money transfer seems clear, and there will be people who will find it credible. In any case, the truth about the bribe or the payoff should come out in the trial, if Jimenez makes good his threat to bring Perez to court.

But almost everything else in Jimenez's account of his dealings with Perez looks fuzzy. For instance, Jimenez should check the date of their first meeting in his house when Perez allegedly slandered and cursed him and threatened to send him to jail. He and his household staff say that this happened during the third week of 2001. Joseph Estrada resigned on Jan. 20. Did Perez come calling on Jimenez the very next day perhaps?

Jimenez said his wife and children were traumatized by Perez's outburst and threats. But why were they discussing something as sensitive as the possibility of Jimenez's testifying against the disgraced former president in front of his wife and young children? He lives in a mansion in Forbes Park, not a shanty in the poorest part of town.

Perez was an "evil-spirited, cruel, ruthless and remorseless man," Jimenez declared. And yet after that traumatic first meeting, he still welcomed such a man into his home on nine or ten other occasions? Jimenez must be not only a masochist but also an irresponsible father to put his family at risk of further abuse.

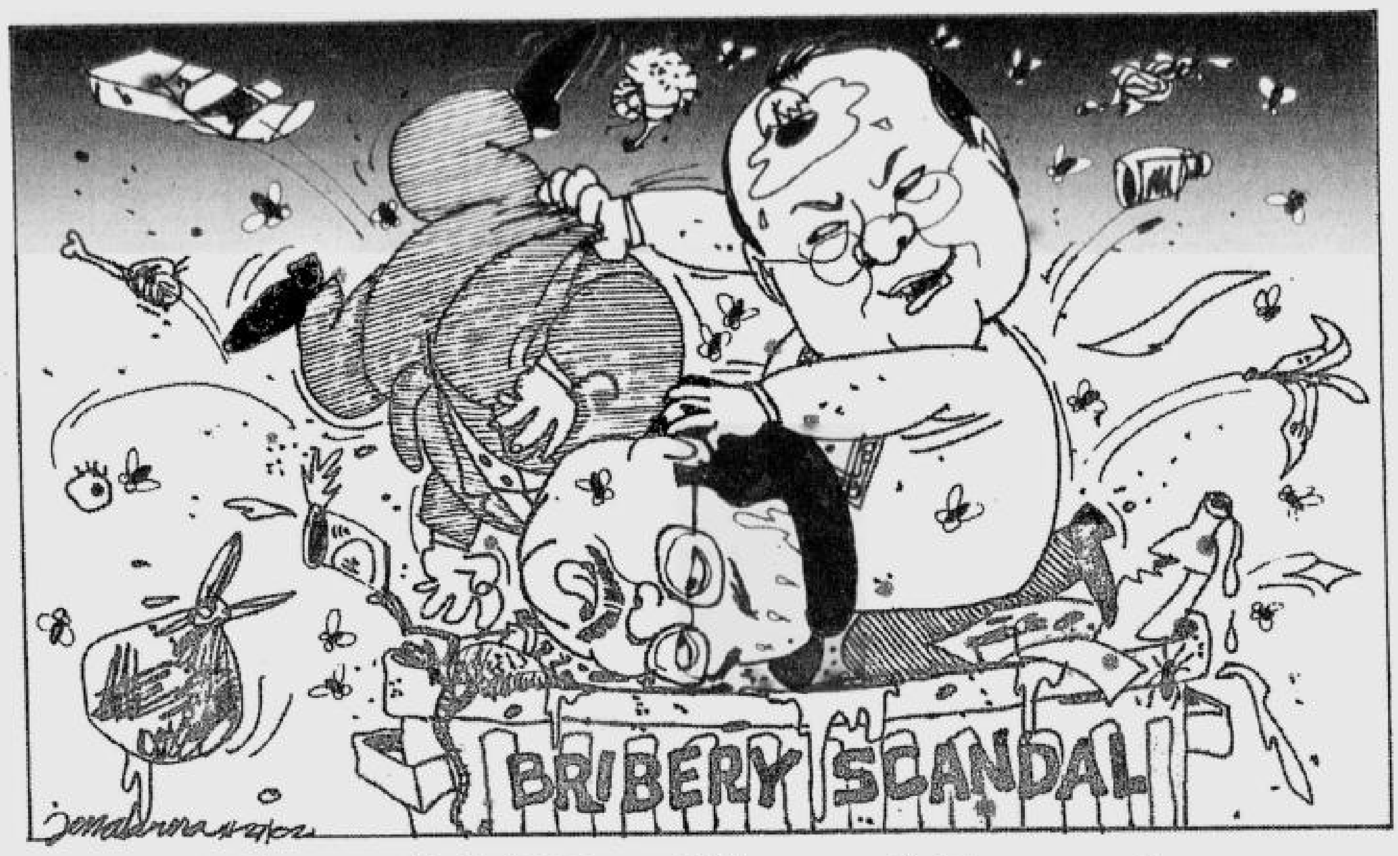
The critical question is: What was he buying with that $2-million "loose change"? Was it his freedom in the face of the request of the United States government for his extradition to answer charges of mail fraud, tax evasion, illegal campaign contributions, etc.? Jimenez said Perez wanted him to be extradited "by hook or by crook." In the same breath, Jimenez claimed to have offered to return to the United States to answer the charges, but Perez rejected it so that he could put him in jail.

This is all very confusing. If Perez wanted Jimenez to be extradited, why would he stop the congressman from going back to the US? If Perez wanted Jimenez behind bars, why would he prevent him from leaving for the US where the police or the Federal Bureau of Investigation would have promptly escorted him to the nearest federal prison?

Jimenez would have sounded more credible had he said he bribed Perez so that he would not be included in the Estrada plunder trial, despite some questionable deals he had brokered. But he didn't say that. Alternatively, he could have cut a deal whereby he would testify in exchange for immunity, but he and Perez seem to agree that their talks on this subject got nowhere.

So if he was not buying immunity from prosecution or freedom from extradition, what did Jimenez pay $2 million for? He said he paid to ensure the safety and peace of mind of his family as well as "for my own reason." Despite his many faults, this was the first time anybody so much as hinted that Perez was capable of murder. Does Jimenez perhaps have personal knowledge of any killing done by Perez? If he has, then he should do his solemn obligation as an official and a citizen and bring Perez to justice. If not, then he has abused the privilege given to him as a lawmaker to speak without fear of being haled to court.

And what was his "own reason" for giving in to extortion? The people have the right to know since this involves alleged criminal acts of a key official in the administration of justice. Now that he has started to talk, Jimenez must tell the full story—if he isn't just inventing a tall tale.



Where did $12 million go? Erap asks

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

FORMER President Estrada said he was offered $14 million to approve Impsa to rehabilitate the Caliraya-Botocan-Kalayaan (CBK) hydroelectric plant in Laguna. Because of that, he seems inclined to believe the claim of Rep. Mark Jimenez that he gave $2 million to Justice Secretary Hernando Perez. If the money came from that $14 million offered to him, where did the remaining $12 million go? he asked during an interview with five columnists at his Veterans Hospital suite last Monday.

He said he rejected the offer and froze the CBK contract. He tossed it to then Finance Secretary Jose Pardo for review, with confidential instructions to "dribble the ball." Pardo then tossed it to then Justice Secretary Artemio Tuquero for his legal opinion and Tuquero "dribbled the ball" for two years until Erap was toppled during Edsa II.

Four days after President Macapagal-Arroyo took over, she approved the CBK contract, Erap said. Just reading and studying the provisions of the contract would take weeks, he continued, but the Macapagal administration did it all in lighting fashion.

Malacañang and Secretary Perez had said that Erap approved the deal. Erap said that is not true. He put it in the freezer; records will show that.

Negotiating started during the administration of President Ramos, with the president of Argentina, who came here on a state visit, speaking to Ramos on behalf of Impsa, an Argentinian corporation. Ramos did not approve it and it was passed on to Erap. He didn't approve it either, but his successor, Ms Macapagal, okayed it even before she could warm her seat in Malacañang, he said.

Now Impsa is rehabilitating the CBK power plant and being overpayed by the National Power Corp., according to Meralco.

Who was the broker who pushed the Impsa deal? Erap was asked. His reply: a known wheeler-dealer who is now a member of Congress.

There were many wheeler-dealers who tried to push deals during his administration, Erap revealed. He rejected them all. They're now with the Macapagal administration. One was one of his Cabinet members who tried to convince him to sell the government stake in Meralco, he said. Another broker tried to make him extend the SGS contract with the Bureau of Customs. This broker is now a close crony of GMA, Erap said. The SGS contract had already been extended twice before, but the extensions ended with him, the former President added.

He praised his Cabinet members. "In the two and a half years of my term, none of my Cabinet members were ever involved in any scandal," he said. "Look at the administration now. Scandal after scandal involving Cabinet members and other high officials."

Erap said neither he nor any of his Cabinet members have stolen anything from the government. He is in trouble now because he allegedly accepted payola from *jueteng* lords. But these are private funds, not government or taxpayers' money, he said. But they're taking billions of taxpayers' money.

On Jimenez, the man he called "a corporate genius," Erap said he had no appointment as "presidential adviser on Latin American affairs." Jimenez wanted the title, but he never gave him a formal appointment, Erap said. He added that Jimenez was not a long-time friend. Jimenez presented himself to him when he, Erap, was already President-elect. By the time he was ousted, Erap said he had already discarded the "corporate genius".

The former President has lost weight, whether by dieting or the stress and worries over all his problems, it is not clear. But he said he feels better now. Reason: An RVN nun—brought from Novaliches by his former ambassador to Washington, Ernesto Maceda—prayed over him for almost two hours. After that, his arthritic knees felt better.

The sister reportedly told him in Pilipino: "You will not only get well but you will return to Malacañang."

With such a prediction, who wouldn't feel better, even if it is not clear whether he would return to Malacañang as president or an exhibit in another photo-op for GMA.

* * *

There is something very important that is missing in the exposé of Rep. Mark Jimenez against Secretary Nani Perez. Jimenez said Perez "extorted" $2 million from him. In other words, he was blackmailed into paying. People are blackmailed because they are trying to hide something which is the blackmailer has threatened to expose. What was that something? Jimenez did not say. He also parried questions trying to shed light on why he was forced to cough up $2 million.

In short, as any detective story reader will tell you, there is no motive. How could Perez force Jimenez to fork out $2 million (a lot of money any way you look at it) just like that? Jimenez merely said he gave in to the extortion "for my own reason and the safety and peace of my family." What that "reason" is, he did not make clear. In one-and-a-half hours of interpellation, congressmen were not able to pry that "reason" from Jimenez.

In his defense, Perez said: "He said that I asked money from him. For what? He must be dreaming."

Perez said he had prosecuted the extradition case against Jimenez without letup. "Do I look like someone who just received $2 million" (from Jimenez?)

Nevertheless, Jimenez exposé is detailed. There is even a supposed witness, Ernest Escaler, supposed to be a friend of Perez and his dummy in the Hong Kong bank account where the $2 million was deposited. Why don't we ask Escaler. And look at the records of the HK bank account. The paper trail should clarify things.

Pots and kettles

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

IF there's merit in Mark Jimenez's accusations, it can't end only with Hernando Perez going on leave. It can end only with Perez being prosecuted for graft. No, more than graft, for betraying public trust. He is the justice secretary, a position that carries with it the weight of the world. People who are supposed to dispense justice are expected to be beyond reproach and live exemplary lives. They are not expected to extort.

Perez says Jimenez's revelations are the act of a desperate man, one who feels the noose tightening around his neck. He says he has prosecuted Jimenez without letup, which is proof of his innocence. If he has taken money from Jimenez, why should he hound him so doggedly? He says that if he has truly done what Jimenez says he did, why didn't Jimenez expose him earlier? Why did he wait for close to two years before doing so? Indeed, he says that if he has demanded money from Jimenez, whatever could it have been for? Why is Jimenez vague on that point?

None of these objections holds water. I can believe that Jimenez is a desperate man, for reasons that have little to do with the justice secretary's efforts to pin him down. The American hand is everywhere in this country, and after 9/11 in particular, has been little stayed by this country's laws. The possibility of Jimenez finding himself shipped to the US one fine day to face charges, notwithstanding the efforts of that mob in Congress to swarm around him whenever he is threatened with sharing the fate of his former patron, is real. He has every reason to be desperate: That doesn't mean he is lying. Desperation has been known to make scoundrels do the strangest things—even tell the truth.

I have no love lost for Mark Jimenez. He and Lucio Tan were the two "businessmen," such as people who do business that way can be called that, who gave the Erap administration the face of a thug. They were the two "businessmen" who bent this country's laws to advance their rackets. It is God's justice that Jimenez has reached this pass, though I do not know how to call the fact that Tan, the worst of the Erap cronies, has not only dodged public opprobrium (never mind official retribution, it isn't forthcoming) but now enjoys newfound respectability.

But that Jimenez is an utter blackguard and has fallen into desperate straits doesn't mean he is inventing things. The fact that somebody's accusations are "politically motivated"—the perennial excuse of the accused—or even derive from undiluted ill-will doesn't make them unbelievable. Often in this country, it makes them exceptionally so.

If Perez has prosecuted Jimenez without letup, how come he is still around? How come Jimenez has been able to run for public office and even now is free to call him names in a privilege speech as a congressman? How come he has not been extradited to the US despite the ease with which Perez and company have justified the numerous violations of the Constitution by the presence of American troops and warships in these islands? At the very least, if that is what Perez has to show for prosecuting someone without letup, he is starkly incompetent.

Is it possible Perez invaded Jimenez's house to do what Jimenez says he did, which was to curse him in front of his wife and children? Well, Jimenez has still to prove that charge, his witnesses being members of his family and people at his employ, people whose testimony cannot be unbiased. While at this, Jimenez must know a bit of Filipino psychology because that is the part of his charge that is calculated to appeal to public opinion. The fact that a public official extorts money from a rich scoundrel is par for the course and P2 million is even sub-par. But the accusation that a public official abused one in one's own house, before one's one family, with language not fit to print, is bound to raise the hackles of the *indio*. It's not the money, Jimenez himself says, it's *amor propio*. He will not have a few of his countrymen relating to that.

Jimenez will have to prove that, as I said, but Perez's record does little to dispel suspicion. I distinctly remember that Perez was one of GMA's allies who were busily—and presumptuously—negotiating a "transition to power" as far back as December of 2000, when it was clear Erap could no longer govern. A thing that pissed off those who had truly fought to put an end to the tyranny. GMA and her allies had pretty much stayed in the sidelines in the heat of the fight, coming out of the woodwork only when it was pretty much won. And suddenly there they were, eager to seize the thing they had done so little to earn, loudly, and arrogantly, demanding the terms of Erap's "surrender." Perez was at the forefront of it. For which pains he was one of the first people given a position and put in charge of creating a new government.

Is that someone who could rap on Jimenez's door and do what Jimenez says he did on the fortnight before Edsa II? I leave the reader to answer that question.

As to Jimenez's vagueness, that is not the weakest part of his case, that is the strongest. What is noteworthy about his accusation is that it damns him too. Whether it is extortion or bribery, he is legally culpable. More to the point, whether it is extortion or bribery, it must suggest that Perez has the goods on him as much as he has the goods on Perez. That would explain his vagueness, or circumspection, in saying what Perez was squeezing him for. That doesn't make him out to be a liar, it only makes him out to be vulnerable. Which should be good for the country generally, their mutual detestation, and exposition, of each other.

One thing about the pot calling the kettle black: They are both hypocritical, but they are both right.

So many loose ends

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

THE BOLD gamble of Sen. Panfilo Lacson and Rep. Mark Jimenez to win seats in Congress has paid off handsomely. Senator Lacson has joined the brotherhood of the untouchables in the Senate, from which he succeeded in freezing several cases against him—including money laundering and drug-trafficking. More than that, he has not lost time while the clock is ticking on the case in the court, implicating him in the Kuratong Baleleng massacre. He has used the Senate as the staging platform for the presidency, a position up for grabs in just two years, from which he can deflect the charges against him.

That was the point in his single-minded pursuit of the Senate seat, and that was also the point in Jimenez's successful electoral entry in the House of Representatives. The noose of the extradition case—springing from charges of tax evasion, wire fraud, conspiracy, false statements and illegal campaign contributions for which he was indicted in a US court—was tightening around his neck when he ran for Congress.

The Philippine justice department has cooperated with the US government in its request to facilitate the deportation of Jimenez so he could stand trial in the US. His election to the House has at least obstructed the deportation. Not only that, Jimenez has now used his parliamentary immunity to retaliate against his alleged tormentors and as a springboard for a ferocious counter-offensive against Justice Secretary Hernando Perez.

In his privilege speech the other day, Jimenez devoted most of his time to a denunciation of Perez for waging a campaign of slander against him and his family, for "black propaganda" and for "relentless" persecution in the public press. Only at the tailend did he unload the bombshell charging Perez with taking a $2-million bribe. It is not quite clear whether he bribed Perez to stop him from harassing him and slandering his family or for something else.

There are so many loose ends in his accusations, hurled behind the shield of parliamentary immunity, and Secretary Perez has been granted a one-month leave by President Macapagal Arroyo to be able to concentrate on defending himself The last word has not been heard from either side, but tentatively, some things have crystallized.

The first is that Jimenez's speech was loose in evidence as it was strong on emotions. When one hurls serious charges, especially on bribery, against a public official, such charges stand better chance of credibility if they were backed by strong evidence—not circumstantial evidence. Jimenez played on public emotion by picturing himself as a victim of vindictive persecution by no less than the highest legal official of the land. The family aspect of Jimenez's speech is the weakest part of his case against Perez. It has the elements of mawkish soap opera. But that's the Filipino style of presenting arguments, especially if the evidence is shaky.

The second is that Jimenez's attack was so aggressive that in his TV appearances and in interpellations by his colleagues in the House, Jimenez cut short questions seeking further details about his allegations. In his TV interview with Ricky Carandang, he asked more questions than the interviewer and many times, he answered a question with another question. The interview was so unproductive in drawing out factual information because of Jimenez's evasive answers on certain key points—such as directly linking Perez to an account in a Hong Kong bank to which the alleged bribe is claimed to have been transmitted. Jimenez's ferocious and offensive behavior did not endear him to the public, whose sympathy he has tried to win through his emotionally charged speech.

The third is that it is quite clear that it was Jimenez who sought to meet Perez as early as the third week of January 2001—or soon after President Macapagal took office. The fact is that he wanted to be excluded from the plunder charge centered on former President Estrada and he and Perez discussed the possibility of Jimenez turning state witness against the man who once called him a "financial genius" for brokering lucrative deals and who was given a Palace appointment as presidential adviser on Latin American affairs. One possible expertise of Jimenez is in having, by his own admission, an account in an Uruguay bank from which, he claimed, he drew money for transfer to the Coutts Bank in Hong Kong.

Jimenez used Estrada to shield him from the deportation cases in the US, but when Estrada was gone, Jimenez was in desperate need of a patron and protective shell and so he considered the possibility of turning state witness against Estrada. What happened to these talks and why they collapsed are things that are to be revealed in the unfolding drama of accusation against Perez.

A recollection of this background is essential to assess the credibility of Jimenez who has hurled accusations against Perez without clean hands.

The extradition case is where the saga of the conflict between Perez and Jimenez came from.

I reported the other day that a Supreme Court justice supplied the dossier on Perez to President Macapagal, that helped her decide to ask Perez to go on leave. On further investigation, I learned that the person, who investigated the dossier, was a private lawyer at the time and was not yet a Supreme Court justice. That investigation took place in the middle of 2001. The lawyer asked Jimenez to give him all the documents on Perez. Jimenez submitted the documents, except one vital paper—the original copy of the letter faxed to him by Ernest Escaler which identified the account number the Coutts bank to which the $2 million was transmitted. To whom the money eventually went is unclear. In any case, there seems to be nothing new in Jimenezs' accusations that adds value to the information supplied in the dossier, and the President has announced Perezs' leave of absence.

Jimenez has as much to explain as Perez, but clearly Jimenez's emotional outburst is worthless for establishing evidence or making him more credible.

T.I.A.s

I TURNED 82 last Nov. 9, 2002, still hale and hearty; still mimicking Liza Minelli in her "New York, New York" Broadway number; still having my transient ischemic attacks, known as TIA.

My first experience was in Vienna, Austria. My second son, Leleng and I were in our private car on a tour of Europe. After registering with the concierge, Leleng was going up the stairs with its many steps, with our luggage. I was on the first step preparatory to the long climb when suddenly I fell backward. I couldn't utter a word although I was conscious. A white man who was descending, quickly ran down. When he reached me I was already standing up, collecting my hat, my purse, my long umbrella because I lost my grip. The white man insisted that I sit down on a chair he picked up. Leleng looked down and only then realized what occurred.

HIGH BLOOD

Romana Lopez del Castillo vda de Noche

WE'D also like to know the concerns of the sixtysomething and above, what makes their blood pressure rise or makes them sit back, content that all's well with their world and with themselves. —Ed.

Several years later, my TIA struck a second time. My Pieta friends related that my eyes were open, that I answered their questions but I didn't remember all these. They called up my house and Leleng fetched me in our car. It was only then that I took command.

The third time, after descending the few steps of Camp Crame and not finding my new temporary driver, I looked up, in case he decided to search for me. Suddenly, I fell, fracturing my left ankle. My well-known cardiologist-relative calls this TIA the "*lavandera* syndrome."

My latest TIA took place in 2002. It was my left shoulder that was fractured, necessitating a sling and a thrice weekly therapy from which I have not yet fully recuperated.

I thank God that my left limbs were the ones fractured. Being a right-handed woman, I hopped on my right foot for a month, and now I write, and use my right hand.

I love the song "I Will Survive" for I am a survivor. I am also a Third Order Lay Carmelite, a Pieta, former president and member, a devotee of the Mother of Perpetual Help. I love to go beyond the blue horizon. In the meanwhile I travel alone lugging plenty of luggage to boot, around the Philippines and around the world. My "don't worry, be happy" positive attitude is an asset. Wouldn't an ultimate TIA be the perfect solution. For me, that would be just fine: No hospitalization. no hassles, no nothing, just off and away! My obituary, my mausoleum with my name inscribed on it, are ready. Hopefully, I'm ready to face God!

Romana Lopez del Castillo vda de Noche, 82, is the former legal affairs branch head of the Napolcom and full professor of PNPA classes '98, '99, 2000 and 2001, Silang Cavite.

Bohol on the run

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

SINCE Friday, I've been moving around Bohol and Cebu City as part of an exposure program for local government executives in Region 5 (Bicol) and Palawan. The program is meant to acquaint mayors, municipal and city health officers, and councilors with "programs and best practices" on the "implementation of a comprehensive health care delivery system and defining an anti-violence against women program."

As Remmy Rikken, executive director of the Women in Politics Institute Philippines, which organized the exposure trip with funding from the Ford Foundation, put it, the activity "is not a picnic."

Indeed, it has not been. We have trekked through rough mountain trails to visit barangay health centers, jostled with passengers on the SuperCat to and from Bohol, negotiated the traffic-clogged streets of Cebu City, and met dedicated and hardworking doctors, nurses, midwives, *hilots*, lawyers, NGO leaders and other local officials.

But in the course of our travels, we have also marveled at the natural wonder of the Chocolate Hills, beheld the bug-eyed tarsier, walked the white beaches of Panglao Island, and wondered how long it will be before the precious heirlooms in Baclayon Church succumb to dust and exposure.

I will be writing about the substance of our exposure trip in the days to follow, but in the meantime, what I want to write about is our visit to Bohol. It's an island I had visited twice before, but both times saw little of the island. The first time, it was to take part in a national conference on women's health in a beach resort that was so hectic all I saw of Tagbilaran was a blur of buildings at night. The second time, our party took a boat from southern Cebu to Balicasag Resort and back again through the same route. Remmy had long been telling me about the series of training sessions she'd been holding for Bicol local executives, so when she broached the possibility of my meeting the mayors on this trip, I said yes without hesitation. Besides, it was my chance to finally "know" Bohol.

* * *

BOHOL plays a big part in Jimenez family history. My itinerant grandfather, who uprooted his wife and eight children every four years as part of his work as a provincial treasurer, stayed for two terms in Bohol. So, although my own Papa was already away at college in Manila, for most of his siblings, Bohol is synonymous with their childhood and adolescence.

We still have many family friends in Bohol, I'm told, and in fact, last summer we planned another clan reunion in Bohol but too many people begged off and the "reunion in Bohol" was put off.

I had imagined Tagbilaran to still be the quiet, church-centered town of my father's memory, but as soon as we left the pier, I realized the capital had in the intervening decades grown up into a city. Not quite as bustling and crowded as Cebu or Manila, but bristling with enough commercial establishments and national fast-food chains (McDonald's Opening Soon! bright yellow banners proclaimed) to look like an urban center.

We had been booked at the Bohol Tropics Hotel, which is located in the city, just a short drive from the pier. It's a sprawling establishment, with rows of rooms set in tropical-themed cabins. There's a short strip of white-sand beach, but as we were not on a picnic, we had no chance to even set foot on it.

* * *

ON OUR first night, we had dinner at the Holy Spirit School. The meal was preceded by an "informance" by the Peer Advocates, a high school organization composed of young women (and one brave young man) who undergo a gender sensitivity orientation during their summer break. They then spend the school year traveling to different schools and barangays, putting on the "informance" and then mingling with their audience to discuss the gender issues that had been raised.

My heart felt close to bursting—with pride, fulfillment, nostalgia—as I watched the HSS girls go through the paces, acting, singing and dancing from a script they had written collectively. Here, I thought, is the fruit of over two decades in feminism. If high school students in Tagbilaran could apply what they knew of issues of self-esteem, physical attractiveness, violence at home and in relationships, sexual responsibility and sexual rights into an entertaining and moving performance, then all our work of awareness and advocacy is bearing fruit. Indeed, we have given birth to a different world!

* * *

ON OUR way to the town of San Miguel, where a dynamic and seemingly tireless municipal health officer by the name of Dr. Hamilcar Saniel is creating waves, we passed by the Chocolate Hills. We all craned our necks to catch as much as we could of the view speeding by, but Remmy urged the driver to speed up, since we were late for the first session.

In San Miguel, we struggle to finish all our site visits an hour earlier than scheduled, realizing that at this time of year, it might soon be too dark to appreciate the Chocolate Hills. But when we get to the lookout point, there is enough sunlight to give us an unobstructed view. Unexpectedly, I feel like laughing. For what earthly (or unearthly) reason, after all, were these low hills—row after row of them, green after the rain—plonked right in the middle of flat rice fields? Was God indeed playing patty-cake as Remmy laughingly claimed?

For those who had the energy and steady knees to climb to the very top of the look-out point, though, amusement was not the primary emotion. From up high, they said, the Chocolate Hills are awe-inspiring. "Now I know there is a God," a participant remarked, her voice filled with wonder. *(More tomorrow)*

Remembering Bonifacio

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

NOV. 30 in the church calendar is the feast of St. Andrew the apostle. Thus, if you look at those old-fashioned calendars printed on newsprint with blue and red ink, the ones that even have the phases of the moon above the dates, you will find names of saints for each day in their Spanish form. On Nov. 30, 1896 the stork brought a baby boy to Santiago Bonifacio and Catalina de Castro, they looked at the saint of the day on their calendar and named him Andres. We celebrate Bonifacio Day each year on Nov. 30 a date that is sometimes confused with National Heroes Day. If my faulty memory serves me right there was once a move to contract our list of national holidays and one of the casualties was Bonifacio Day that was renamed National Heroes Day. Naturally, the move was perceived by some as an official downgrading of Bonifacio by making him share the limelight with all national heroes. That has since been settled when National Heroes Day was set on the last Sunday of August each year. Now Andres Bonifacio rightly has a national holiday all to himself on Nov. 30.

Bonifacio Day is also odd because heroes, like saints, are often remembered more for their death than their birth. Rizal's birthday, June 19, is a local holiday in Laguna and the date of his execution, Dec. 30, a national holiday known as Rizal Day. Anyone who knows Philippine history will understand why Bonifacio is remembered on his birthday, Nov. 30, rather than the date of death, May 10, 1897. Unlike Rizal who was executed by the enemy, or other heroes who died in battle, Bonifacio was executed by fellow Filipinos. The circumstances surrounding the death of Bonifacio have been debated for decades, and it remains unsolved, a skeleton in our closet. One would hope that more material on Bonifacio would come to light, but then we know of him mainly from the accounts of people who knew him. Unlike other heroes like Rizal, Aguinaldo, Mabini, etc. he left very little of his own writings, making the task of the historian difficult.

To prepare for Bonifacio Day I went over the various printed memoirs that have references to the Supremo of the Katipunan. These were Artemio Ricarte, Santiago Alvarez, Telesforo Canseco, Emilio Aguinaldo, Carlos Ronquillo, etc. It was very difficult to piece together a composite picture, so I decided to share something by Pio Vaenzuela, who was interrogated by the Spanish authorities from September to October 1896. Part of his testimony stated that Bonifacio, "frequently said that the president of the French Republic was once a blacksmith, giving his hearers to understand that, although he was only a porter, he might one day rise in like manner to that position in the Philippines."

Valenzuela added that "Andres Bonifacio had read a great deal and had a library which was destroyed at the time his house was burned down. He was accustomed to pass the night reading. There happened to him what had happened to Don Quixote—his head was turned and he was always dreaming of the presidency and speaking of the French Revolution." I have always been fascinated by the books our heroes read and the partial list of books in Bonifacios library included the following: "Lives of the Presidents of the United States"; "History of the French Revolution" (two volumes); "La Solidaridad" (three volumes); "Noli Me Tangere"; "El Filibusterismo"; "International Law"; "Civil Code"; "Penal Code"; "Ruins of Palmyra"; "Religion within the Reach of All"; "The Bible" (five volumes); "Les Misérables" by Victor Hugo; and "The Wandering Jew" by Eugene Sue. This list was supplied by Valenzuela who adds that Bonifacio's modest library also included law books owned by Emilio Jacinto who was a law student, and medical books owned by Valenzuela. It is significant that Bonifacio's books were mostly novels, particularly Dumas father and son. Bonifacio personally owned the above books: "French revolution," "El filibusterismo," "Les Misérables," "Ruins of Palmyra" and "Wandering Jew" which are presented as the intellectual seeds of the Philippine revolution. Frankly, I tried, and failed, to read "Ruins of Palmyra" and "Wandering Jew" because these two novels were also read by Rizal and supposedly influenced the "Noli" and "Fili." These novels may have been popular in the late 19th century Philippines but to me they were absolutely boring. I have always maintained that to get into the mind of our heroes and to understand them we should read the books they read. Maybe I will read "Ruins" and "Wandering Jew" next Lent for mortification.

Valenzuela described Bonifacio as, "very astute and intelligent and speaks Tagalog very well, and those who are not personally acquainted with him would never suppose he was a warehouse porter. He is also a good letter-writer, adept in the falsification of signatures and seals. He has spies in his employ of all the religious corporations and in the offices of the government, in the Intendencia General and the buildings in the convents, in the Maestranza de Artilleria, in the printing establishments, and in the Masonic lodges. He possesses a great hold over the lower and more ignorant class of people and the witness believed that to this is due the present armed rebellion."

I am still so far off from producing my composite picture of Bonifacio, but I'd like to think that by remembering him I will get closer to knowing him and understanding our history.

* * *

Comments are welcome at ambeth@admu.edu.ph

A familiar touch

Manuel Cabanero Valdez

I BECAME a *sacristan* (altar boy) of our neighborhood church at the age of 9 and Mama was very proud about it. Every evening after I had gone to bed, she would prepare my shirt, short pants and shoes. These were put beside my bed so that the next morning before 5, I could dress up hurriedly walk two blocks away to Espiritu Santo Church in time for the 5 o'clock Mass.

There were times when I felt too lazy to wake up and then, I would feel the fingers of my mother scratching through my hair, gently waking me up. There was this very cold December morning that I clearly remember when I felt the fingers of my mother in my hair and her voice whispering, "Wake up child. Time for you to go. Father Antonio cannot start the Mass without you." For the first time after almost a year of being a sacristan, I protested, "But I don't like to serve Father Antonio, Mama. For one mistake, he would scold me repeatedly. I do not like to serve him anymore." Mama was very surprised to hear this from me, but she gave me a reply that I could not understand. There was something strange in her words that I found it hard to forget. It is not Father Antonio whom you are serving but the Infant Jesus. Do you know that by serving him, you would be gaining some special kind of indulgence? These are savings that you could mention to the Infant Jesus when asking for a special favor one day." As a child, I never understood the meaning of *indulhencia* or *ganancia*—special favors that I could mention to the Infant Jesus one-day.

Many years had passed after that very cold December morning. World War II interrupted my schooling and serving at the Mass. After the Japanese Imperial Forces occupied Manila, we had to evacuate. Three years later, the war ended. I went back to Espiritu Santo Church one afternoon with my desire to serve at Mass again. But the sight of young boys trying to learn how to serve at Mass made me realize that I was already 16 years old. I told myself that it was time for me to quit and give a chance to these young boys to serve the Infant Jesus.

I continued my studies, earned my college degree, decided to raise my own family and got married. One day, I found myself looking down at the dying body of my mother. We had brought her to the hospital about a week ago and for the last two days she was comatose. The doctor advised us to brace ourselves for her coming end. Death would come in a day or week.

That night, I was sitting on a chair in the room of Mama—very sleepy but I could not sleep. About 2 in the morning, a nurse came and she noticed blisters on the back of Mama. She got a big piece of cotton, poured alcohol on it and in one—two swift strokes, she applied the alcohol on Mama's back. My face twisted in pain as I anticipated a similar reaction from Mama. But Mama was just laying down there with her face so peaceful and quiet and very unmindful of the pains of life.

That sight triggered something in my sub-conscious mind. Like a bolt of lightning, it all came back to me—all the things that Mama told be one very cold December morning, some 35 years or so ago—the indulgence and savings that I could mention to the infant Jesus when asking for a special favor one day!

And so, from that chair where I was sitting, I closed my eyes, bowed my head and prayed,—"Dear Infant Jesus, I am praying to you now, not as this grown up man of today but as that little boy who had served you so well many, many years ago. Please take Mama with you. Take her now. PLEASE!"

Perhaps, I could have prayed in my sleep for I was awakened by a very familiar touch—fingers scratching through my hair, gently waking me up. For one brief moment immediately after I felt that old familiar touch, my whole self seemed to shoot out into outer space, sparing to a familiar time and place where I used to sleep and wake up!

And so, as I reached out for my shirt and short pants to start dressing up, I raised my head. I was very surprised to see my brother, sister, and the nurse all around the bed of Mama. The doctor was there, too, saying that Mama had died.

Manuel Cabanero Valdez, is a retired architect. He now finds a special kind of joy playing with his grandchildren over a miniature train layout.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

Questioning the competence of the Supreme Court

THE RECENT decision of the Supreme Court on the Meralco case again raises the question on the competence and propriety of the Supreme Court to rule on economic issues. The main issue in the Meralco case is whether or not income tax should be deducted from revenues to arrive at the allowed rate of return on rate base (RORB). This is more of an economic or financial issue rather than a legal issue.

The formula of deducting income tax from revenues in calculating the RORB of power utility entities (PUEs) is widely accepted not only in the United States but also in the Asia-Pacific region. All PUEs in the Philippines, including the National Power Corp. and other provincial power utilities adopt this formula. Multilateral financing institutions such as the World Bank and Asian Development Bank also recognize this formula. In fact, they use this formula in their loan covenants with PUEs in their borrowing member countries. Meralco, being a borrower of WB and ADB, is required under the loan covenants with these institutions to adopt this formula.

With such wide acceptance of the formula, it is quite puzzling as to how the Supreme Court arrived at its decision disallowing the deduction of Meralco's income tax from its revenues to calculate the RORB allowed by the Energy Regulatory Board and required by the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank. Again, the question is raised as to the competence of the Supreme Court to decide on such an economic issue.

—JESUS G. LAPITAN,
12G-T2 Olympic Heights,
Eastwood City Cyberpark,
Libis, Quezon City,

Timely precautions

THE PROPOSAL for a firecrackers zone in every municipality is a welcome development both as a safety precaution and for health reason. With this, peacekeeping personnel could have better control of all pyrotechnics explosions during the celebration of the New Year, and firefighters could easily avert occurrence of arson as a result of the fireworks. Any detonation beyond the designated area would be considered a felony and should be dealt with accordingly. And above all, any blasts outside the designated areas would be suspicious and quickly bring concentrated investigation.

Most of us like to set off firecrackers to welcome the new year in keeping with tradition. We often disregard the many dangers this could bring.

The Listening Institute of Michael Riley, an American hearing specialist, on the other hand, has declared that all sounds whose volumes exceed 80 decibels should be avoided at all instances because this is one factor leading to hearing loss other than aging. Long exposures to the said sound limit would gradually cause total hearing loss. Physiological stress measurably begins at this loudness level. Living with less noise can provide dramatic benefits, from less anxiety and lower blood pressure to an improved immune response, the expert says.

And so people above 50 should desist from engaging in noisy and tumultuous activities like those connected with yearend pyrotechnics and other festivities and leave these to those who can handle the situation a lot better. The young ones should be discreet in greeting the Yuletide with a bang. See to it that they'll remain in one piece, so to speak, after the merriment.

—EMILIANO A. BAGO JR.,
Magdaami Street, Sariaya,
Quezon 4322

Evicting squatters on Pasig River banks

BAYANI Fernando as chair of the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission is set to evict 7,000-10,000 poor families, according to the National Housing Authority, from the banks of the Pasig River in what may be the most socially discriminatory act in Metro Manila for many years.

They will be evicted to create a 10-meter or wider buffer zone along the river which can also be used for parks. Unfortunately the zone will only be created in urban poor areas. The land of the factories, private homes, luxury apartments, obsolescent industries, etc. will not be touched. The buffer zone is just for poor people. The government doesn't have the funds to expropriate the lands of the rich which occupy 95 percent of the banks. Experts in agencies dealing with Asian Development Bank and Palafox Associates, the official planners and elected officials, such as Sen. Rudolfo Biazon, and Mayor Lito Atienza say a straight 10-meter border for the zone is not needed. It can be three meters in some places, five in another, perhaps 10 in others. A three-meter zone serves as well as a 10 meter buffer.

Is the displacement of 35,000-50,000 poor men, women and children of so little account that they can be evicted and sent from their jobs and schools without a compelling reason?

—ALICIA GENTOLIA Murphy, Urban Poor;
MARIA FIDES F. BAGASAO, Community Organizers Multiversity;
FRANCIA C. CLAVECILLAS, Community Organization of the Philippines Enterprise Foundation, 28-B Matino cor. Malumanay Streets, Sikatuna Village, Barangay Malaya, Quezon City

Church should focus on issues

WHAT do contraceptives have to do with Panfilo Lacson running in 2004? A lot, it seems.

The use of contraceptives has always been a subject of debate between the Catholic Church, the government and the community. The Church, together with some women's groups and other organizations, have for the longest time zealously promoted its pro-life stance to oppose the use of contraceptives, putting strong pressure on past and present administrations. Now that the issue has again been opened by a legislator, the Church and several groups have spoken up once more, not just about the use of contraceptives but now also about the senator himself.

Yes, Senator Lacson will be running in the presidential race in 2004. So what if he might just be saying things as part of his campaign? He didn't just say a lot of nonsense. Why are these groups focusing on the advocate rather than the issue?

I understand the reasons these groups, and even the Church, are not for contraceptives. I also understand what some groups are trying to do now: discredit Lacson so the people would not vote for him and his pro-contraception platform would just die away.

There is nothing wrong with trying to fight for what one believes, but the Church must realize that there is a serious issue involved. How do you solve a problem such as "75 million people and still increasing"? When a public official says something about such an issue, the Church should focus on the issue itself and not on other matters such as politics and elections, because the Church should not cause division. If the Church and women's groups really want to help, they should come up with a better way to solve the population problem, if there is.

I am not really a supporter of Lacson, but this time he knows what he is talking about. He is talking about the welfare of 80 million Filipinos. Isn't that also being "pro-life"?

The problem of runaway population growth has never been solved or given much attention. Now a solution is being presented, so why don't we consider it?

Jaime Cardinal Sin has declared that contraceptives attack the integrity and unity of the family. How? Wouldn't they help families rise from poverty? Are contraceptives really that bad? Anyway there are non-abortifacient means of doing it. Maybe the Church ought to focus more on the promotion of chastity among unmarried couples.

If we really want to make a change, let us focus on the more significant issues. Being open to change doesn't always mean compromising what we believe in.

—LARISSA J.C. VILA,
22 White St., Doña Faustina Vill.,
Quezon City

Like hugging an anaconda

IT takes an investment of P3 million to create one permanent job that will sustain one Filipino family. An investment does not necessarily entail money directly going into business. It could be just depositing the money and letting the banks lend it to businessmen who need more capital for expansion.

To stash $2 million abroad is therefore to deny 33 Filipino families a source of livelihood. Our officials and the moneyed have the right to put their money wherever they wish, but depositing it abroad is an unpatriotic act that will deny opportunities for the workers in our land.

Similarly, entrusting one's money to networking schemers is tantamount to economic sabotage. It is a crime that is motivated by greed on both the part of the schemers and the victims. Why would the networking operators promise a 7 percent monthly interest to their investors when they can borrow capital from banks at 1.2 percent monthly interest? Because they are not in a legitimate business, and they are lusting after the money of others. The victims who withdraw their money from the banks, salivating at the prospect of earning a 7 percent interest monthly will only have a short time before they suffer the recurring unlearned lesson.

Stashing money abroad and taking risks with the pyramid schemers are like hugging an anaconda. The anaconda will also hug, but what a hug it gives.

—JAMES D. FRANCISCO,
CFD, 9th Flr., PNB Financial Center,
President Macapagal Boulevard,
Pasay City

The National Book Development Board
under the Office of the President, Republic of the Philippines

in partnership with
Book Development Association of the Philippines (BDAP)
invites you to its

Booklatan
sa Bayan

Regional Bookfair

from December 2-8, 2002 at La Hacienda Hotel, Roxas City

Enjoy 15,000 books on various topics and fun-filled activities free to the public like storytelling, book launching, competitions, film showing, book giving, training programs, and a Book Lovers Night Celebration

This activity is also being done in partnership with the **Provincial Government of Capiz** under Hon. Vicente B. Bermejo, Governor; and the **Institute for People Empowerment** under Hon. Gilbert O. Ardivilla, Chairman of the Board.

For inquiries, please contact NBDB at **9201829** and **9293677** or through email **irmis@nbdb.gov.ph**. Visit NBDB website at **www.nbdb8047.gov.ph** for more information.

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

UN arms inspectors arrive in Baghdad

BAGHDAD—UN weapons inspectors prepared Tuesday to begin the first checks on suspect sites in nearly four years as the UN Security Council extended the oil-for-food program by nine days.

The first 11 inspectors from the UN Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC) and six from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) arrived in Baghdad on a special UN flight from Cyprus Monday.

Under UN Resolution 1441 adopted Nov. 8, the teams have unprecedented powers to search Iraqi sites and question Iraqi scientists about Saddam Hussein's arms programs.

IAEA spokesperson Melissa Fleming promised a thorough investigation. "We operate like detectives and when we have clues, we have to be flexible and change our plans," she said.

"One of the most important points of our strategy is the ability to conduct unannounced inspections; we will never reveal where we are going," she told reporters at the hotel housing the inspectors in Baghdad.

"We have had a lot of promises of cooperation, we believe that this is a good start, but we have suspicious minds; we are here to test cooperation among other things," added Fleming.

The inspectors will start by checking the sites left under electronic surveillance by their predecessors who pulled out of Baghdad four years ago when the Iraqis withdrew cooperation, sparking US and British air attacks.

Frenchman Jacques Baute will lead the IAEA inspection team and Demetrios Perricos, a Greek, will head the UNMOVIC group. Members of the teams come from Australia, Britain, Egypt, Finland, Russia and the United States.

Among them are people who took part in the last inspections in Iraq during the late 1990s, Fleming said.

Between 80 and 100 inspectors from the two agencies will be on the ground before the end of the year, Ueki said.

Iraq has strongly denied having any weapons of mass destruction and says the inspectors will find nothing incriminating.

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan called on Iraq to cooperate fully with the weapons inspectors, warning it was the only way to avoid war.

"It is the only way to avoid military conflict in the region," Annan said.

Chief inspector Hans Blix briefed the UN Security Council in New York on the work of the teams which is to start Wednesday. He said Iraq would have to give strong proof if it were to claim there are no biological, chemical or nuclear weapons.

"If the Iraqi side were to state—as it still did at our meeting—that there were no such programs, it would need to provide convincing documentary or other evidence," Blix told Security Council members.

He said after the meeting that Iraq had in the past not given a full account of its weapons and this must change. "The production of mustard gas is not exactly the same as production of marmelade," Blix commented. *AFP*

US may demand Saudi act on terror funds

WASHINGTON—A National Security Council group may recommend a plan to US President George W. Bush to force Saudi Arabia to go after Saudis suspected of funneling money to al-Qaida and other militant groups, The Washington Post reported on Tuesday.

Saudi Arabia would be urged to take action against the suspects within 90 days or the United States would take care of the problem on its own, senior US officials told the newspaper.

The officials, who were not identified, said the United States before acting unilaterally would present the Saudis with evidence against the suspected businesses and individuals and demand they be stopped.

One senior official was quoted as saying the administration would say, "We don't care how you deal with the problem; just do it or we will" after 90 days.

The newspaper said officials would not say what action the United States might take and that the matter of how to present its demand to the Saudis was still being debated.

The White House had no immediate comment on the report.

A congressional inquiry into intelligence failures related to last year's Sept. 11 attacks is investigating a possible money trail from the Saudi Arabian government to two of the hijackers. Fifteen of the 19 hijackers were Saudi citizens.

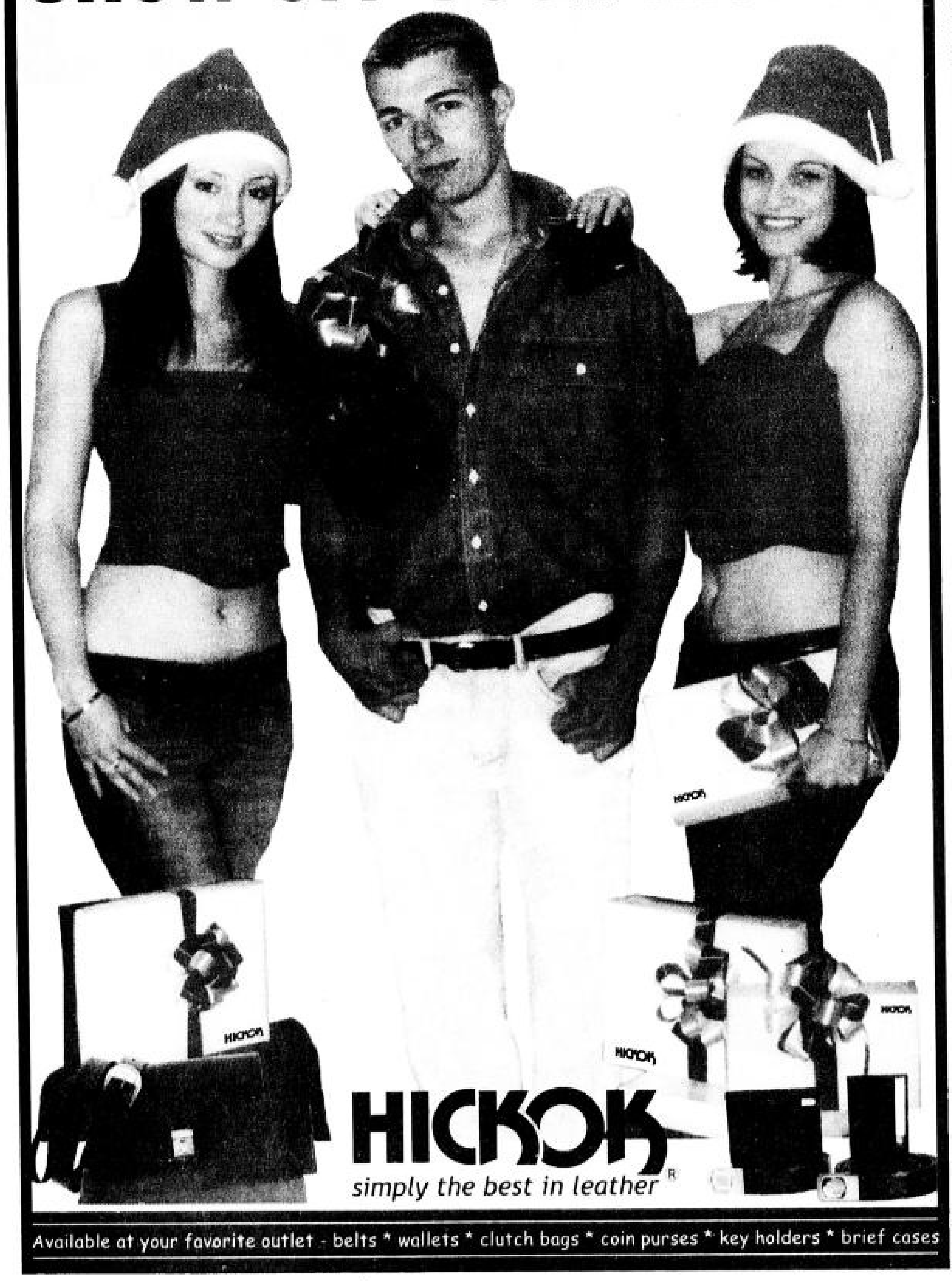
The FBI was also investigating if some payments of $2,000 a month from Princess Haifa al-Faisal, wife of the Saudi ambassador to Washington, Bandar bin Sultan, may have reached the hijackers, possibly via two Saudi students living in the United States who received them.

Saudi Arabia denied on Monday it financed the Sept. 11 hijackers, and some Saudi newspapers said the allegations were an attempt by US hawks to get Saudi support for a possible war against Iraq.

US officials told the Post that US intelligence agencies and financial investigators had put together a secret list of nine wealthy individuals, including seven Saudis, believed to be the core group of financiers for al Qaeda and other Islamic militant groups. *Reuters*

MAKE IT GENUINE LEATHER THIS CHRISTMAS...

SHOW OFF YOUR HICKOK



Available at your favorite outlet - belts * wallets * clutch bags * coin purses * key holders * brief cases

BPI FAMILY BANK

HAPPY FAMILY HOUSING LOAN

Just How LOW Can We Go?

LOWER Than Our LOWEST!

BPI Family Bank Happy Family Housing Loan's lowest monthly amortizations -- now made even lower. And still fixed up to 5 years.

2, 3 or 5 Years FIXED!

₱1,030.00 a month FIXED for 2 years

₱1,060.00 a month FIXED for 3 years

₱1,185.00 a month FIXED for 5 years

For every loan amount of ₱100,000 with a 15-year loan term. Minimum loan amount is ₱400,000.

CALL 89-100 NOW!

Or call 845-6888.
Or drop by any BPI, BPI Family Bank branch or Express Banking Center nearest you.

For inquiries outside Metro Manila, call **BPI Family Bank Provincial Business Centers: Dagupan:** (075) 522-0372/73; 523-4679 • **San Fernando, Pampanga:** (045) 860-2681, 963-5524 • **Lipa:** (043) 757-1000/02 **Cebu:** (032) 231-3395 • **Iloilo:** (033) 335-0229 • **Bacolod:** (034) 435-0639; 433-4 328 • **Cagayan De Oro:** (08822) 726-067 **Davao:** (082) 224-0931/34

You may also fill out this form and fax to 845-6989 or 754-6333 and we'll call you within 24 hours.

CALL ME! I want to know how I can get BPI Family Bank Happy Family Housing Loan's lowest monthly amortization.

Name ____________________

Telephone No. ____________________

Cellphone No. ____________________

E-mail Address ____________________

Globe Handyphone subscribers may also send CONTACT BPIFB <name and contact number> to 22 11.** And we'll call within 24 hours.

**Charges: P2.00 per message sent for post-paid subscribers. P2.50 per message sent for pre-paid subscribers.

Rice engineered to endure drought, salt water, cold

WASHINGTON—Scientists said on Monday they had genetically engineered rice to withstand drought, salt water and cold temperatures by borrowing a gene from the E. coli bacteria.

They hope the new stress-tolerant rice will help farmers in poor countries grow more food under the worst conditions.

The team, at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, Seoul National University in South Korea and elsewhere, added to the rice a gene for trehalose, a sugar that helps plants withstand stress.

Writing in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, the scientists said they hope to develop crops to feed the world's growing population.

"World population continues to increase at an explosive rate, our arable land is deteriorating, fresh water is becoming scarce and increasing environmental stresses pose ever more serious threats to global agricultural production and food security," said Ray Wu, a professor of molecular biology and genetics at Cornell who led the study.

"Anything we can do to help crop plants cope with environmental stresses will also raise the quality and quantity of food for those who need it most."

They used Indica rice, which makes up 80 percent of the world's rice crop. But they believe other rice species as well as corn, wheat, millet, soybeans and sugar cane can also be genetically engineered using trehalose. *Reuters*

Miss World organizer denies responsibility for bloody riots

LONDON—The woman behind Miss World rejected Monday any responsibility for the bloody riots that forced the pageant out of Nigeria, as her brood of young beauties looked forward to the Dec. 7 finals in London.

As the 86 contestants fielded questions from the press, Julia Morley pinned all blame on the Nigerian journalist who insinuated that the prophet Mohammed would have been happy to take any of them as a bride.

"It isn't the fault of the girls or any of us," said Morley at the Sheraton Heathrow hotel, where the contestants bunked down after their dramatic evacuation Sunday from Nigeria's capital Abuja.

"It was a journalist (style writer Isioma Daniel, since fired from the This Day newspaper) who made a remark that absolutely infuriated young Muslims... The president accepts that. The whole country accepts that," she said.

The Nigerian Red Cross said Monday that more than 200 people died in the northern Nigerian city of Kaduna in riots that flared up last Thursday, fueled by Muslim opposition to the pagent.

"Right now, things have calmed down considerably," said Nigerian Red Cross president Emmanuel Ijewere. "Four people died overnight of their injuries, bringing the total to around 220."

Muslims account for half of Nigeria's 120 million people, and many of them opposed their nation hosting Miss World as a commercialized parade of female flesh during their holy month of Ramadan.

Though the violence eventually spread to Abuja, the contestants were safely confined to a luxury hotel. "We went shopping," reported Miss France, Caroline Chamorand, who studies physical education at the University of Paris. "There wasn't very much. It was expensive."

Morley said the switch to London—"it was a collective decision"—was mainly to allay the fears of parents alarmed at the prospect of their daughters caught up in west African political turmoil.

Two contestants, from Canada and South Korea, had already pulled out, though Morley said Monday they were free to return for the London finals.

Sitting with radiant smiles around 17 tables at the Sheraton Heathrow airport with chaperones who eventually abandoned them, the contestants waxed philosophically about their experience.

"I know Nigeria is a Muslim country," Miss Lithuania, Oksana Semenishina, an international relations student, said. Of the riots, she said: "It could happen... with or without us."

"This has become a very sensitive issue for me right now," added Miss Ghana, Shaida Buari, a political science student. "Nigerians are like brothers and sisters to me. They put up a lot of sacrifice for us."

"It was rather a shame that we had to leave, but it was the best thing to do," she said. *AFP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Hate crimes vs Muslims up

WASHINGTON—Muslims and people who are or appear to be of Middle Eastern descent were reported as victims of hate crimes more often last year than ever before, a consequence of the fear and suspicion that followed the Sept. 11 terror attacks, the FBI said. "There's a great deal of apprehension in the Muslim community as to the demonization of Islam," Ibrahim Hooper, spokesman for the Council on American-Islamic Relations, said Monday. "A lot of us feel that our patriotism is always suspect." The FBI's annual hate crimes report found that incidents targeting people, institutions and businesses identified with the Islamic faith increased from 28 in 2000 to 481 in 2001—a jump of 1,600 percent. Muslims previously had been among the least-targeted religious groups. *AP*

Ship fires in HK, Japan

TOKYO—Fires were blazing aboard two freighters in Asian waters Tuesday, outside Tokyo and Hong Kong, while Chinese authorities said they finally plugged an oil tanker leak that slickened kilometers of the mainland's coastal waters. In Japan, a grounded freighter carrying nearly 4,000 vehicles was blazing out of control near Izu-Oshima, an island about 129 km south of Tokyo.Billowing smoke and the threat of explosion from the 56,835-ton, 199-meter Hual Europe forced dozens of people on shore nearby to be evacuated. Meanwhile, a fire aboard an abandoned tanker off Hong Kong appeared to be dying down Tuesday and was not threatening to ignite its cargo of 20,000 tons of highly volatile liquefied petroleum gas, a Hong Kong marine official said. Capt. Ravi Dewan, head of the Hong Kong Maritime Search and Rescue Center, said officials in the southern Chinese city of Shenzhen had dispatched 12 vessels to monitor the blaze, which caught fire late Saturday night. The Gaz Poem tanker, which left Hong Kong for a mainland Chinese port last week, was moored about 50 km south of Daya Bay, southern China. *AP*

Siege of 2 temples ends

JAMMU, India—Security forces armed with rocket launchers ended a daring siege of two Hindu temples by Islamic militants in India's Jammu-Kashmir state on Sunday, leaving two rebels and 10 others dead, police said. At least 50 others, mostly Hindu devotees visiting this city of temples, were injured, said Ashok Suri, the police chief of Jammu-Kashmir state. At the end of a six-hour operation by police and paramilitary troops, police killed one militant at the Raghunath Temple and another at the nearby Panchvaktar Temple in Jammu, the state's winter capital. The dead included five civilians and two policeman, an officer said on condition of anonymity. The identities of another three were not immediately known. *AP*

Bush signs security act

WASHINGTON—President George W. Bush on Monday signed a law creating a giant Department of Homeland Security to step up the US war on terrorism and named former Pennsylvania governor Tom Ridge as head of the new agency. In a ceremony at the White House, Bush named Ridge, who has been his domestic security advisor since last year's Sept. 11 attacks on New York and Washington, to head the new department, which will arise out of the largest federal reorganization in half a century. The new department will employ 177,000 people, will have an annual budget of $38 billion and will take in all or part of 22 federal agencies. *AFP*

US agency to dispense aid

WASHINGTON—US President George W. Bush plans to create a new government agency to dole out billions of dollars in foreign aid, forcing the world's poorest countries to compete against one another if they want a share, administration officials said on Monday. Strict conditions would be set for countries to qualify under the so-called Millennium Challenge Account program aimed at rewarding cash-strapped governments that embrace civil rights, root out corruption, open up their markets and adopt other policies favored by Washington. Taking on critics who say the United States does not provide its fair share of foreign aid, Bush has promised $5 billion a year for the new program starting in fiscal 2006. Money would begin to flow in the fiscal 2004 budget, which will be unveiled in February, but officials said the dollar amounts for 2004 and 2005 have yet to be set. The money would be in addition to the roughly $10 billion the United States distributes each year for foreign development assistance or $17 billion counting security funds. *Reuters*

Canon

Shape up

- 2400 x 1200 dpi
- 4"x 6" Borderless Print
- 5pl Ink Droplet
- MicroFine Droplet Technology
- 10ppm Mono/7ppm Colour
- Affordable Original Inks

i320

Shape up your image. Shape up your future. Shape up your life.

The Canon XNU i320 Bubble Jet Printer is about to shape up your life! Its revolutionary design integrates graceful curves and a compact, cube-inspired form that shape up your desktop. A high-quality photo printer, XNU shapes up your image with ultra-precise MicroFine Droplet Technology and ultra-high 2400 x 1200dpi resolution. Easy-PhotoPrint - which supports the new international standard Exif Print (Exif 2.2) for digital camera - ensure exceptional accuracy and brilliant, lifelike photos. And a variety of exciting features and capabilities - such as high-speed borderless 4R printing and Vivid Photo Function - further expand your creative possibilities. XNU is the ultimate blend of form and function, an artistically advanced machine that is destined to shape up your future. Canon XNU - the time has come to shape up!

xnu
BUBBLE JET PRINTER

Vivid · OUT OF THE BOX PERFORMANCE · Exif Print

South East Asia Regional Headquarters: Canon Singapore Pte Ltd 79 Anson Road #09-01/06 Singapore 079906 www.canon-asia.com

LOCAL SALES OFFICE: CANON MARKETING PHILIPPINES, INC.
Marvin Plaza, 2153 Don Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City • Tels.: 812-6047; 892-6449 • Fax: 810-9797 • E-mail address: info@canon.com.ph • www.canon.com.ph

XNU I320 Preferred Dealers: Accent Micro 634-2417; 455-1543 • **Acenet** 726-4276 • **Acrotech** 781-8245 • **Columbia Superstore** 633-9307 to 10 **Complink** 920-9140 • **Concept Computers-Iloilo** (033) 337-6874 • **Datacore** 726-4541 • **Electroworld** 638-8017 to 19 /633-1624-25 **NT ComputerMart** 633-4690 /802-0650 • **PC Express** 726-0696 • **PC Option** 727-3913 • **Prodata** 922-0901 • **Silicon Valley** 633-1724 /812-6734 **The Computer Authority** 681-7335 • **Villman Computers** 892-2222 /926-7322 • **MSC Data Exchange-Laguna** (049) 562-6006 /(049)562-7342 **West Ave Computers** 925-6871

AUTHORIZED DISTRIBUTORS:
HYTECH INTEGRATED PRODUCTS, #9 Campanilla St., New Manila, Q.C. Tel.: 722-1122 Fax: 726-8216
E-mail address: sales@hytech.com.ph • www.hytech.com.ph
LAMCO INTERNATIONAL INC. Suite 1804 East Tower PSE Center, Exchange Rd., Ortigas Center, Pasig City Tel.: 634-7999 Fax: 687-2396
Email address: consumer@lamco.com.ph • www.lamco.com.ph

SHARP

Sharp Aphrody with Speaker Box Technology.

Now you can tell if the sound comes from the left or from the right.

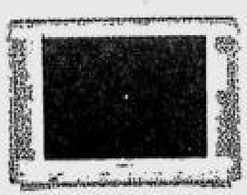
SHARP
MAIN POWER
ON
STANDBY

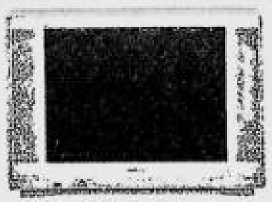
Speaker Box Technology helps distinguish the source of the sound for a better television experience.

Other features: Pure Flat CRT • High Picture Quality • Surround Sound • Dynamic Sound Enhancer DVD/Component Video Input Terminal • 181 Channel Cable Compatible PLL Tuner • Built-in Closed Caption Decoder • Energy Save Function • Auto Volt

Featured product: 29V-FL250S

Other Aphrody models available:


21V-SL250S


29V-SL250S

Visit our website, www.sharp.ph.

NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU
Room 201, Bonuan Apartelle
10 Happy Glen Loop, Baguio City
Tel. No. (074)443-9255
Fax No. (074)443-8971
E-mail: inq_baguio@inquirer.com.ph

SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU
23 Aurora St., Old Albay District
Legazpi City
Tel. No. (052) 820-8402
Fax No. (052) 820-1274
E-mail: inq_bicol@inquirer.com.ph

Across the NATION
E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph
Assistant Editor **Tony Bergonia**

VISAYAS BUREAU
c/o Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escario St., Cebu City
Tel. Nos. (032) 233-0346/233-0349
Fax No. (032) 232-9938
E-mail: pdivis@skyinet.net

MINDANAO BUREAU
FEP Printing Corp. Bldg.
Ma-a Road, Davao City
Tel. No. (082)244-1770 to 71
Fax No. (082)244-1771
E-mail: pdiminda@dv.weblinq.com

Residents evacuate after Mindoro ambush

By Donna Virola and Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

PUERTO GALERA, Oriental Mindoro—About 500 evacuees, half of them Iraya Mangyans, affected by the recent ambush that killed four Army soldiers and wounded nine others last Sunday have evacuated to the Isidoro C. Suzara Public Elementary School in Barangay Dulangan here, according to Barangay Captain Edwin Suzara.

Suzara said the evacuees from Sitio Paraway, Km 37, Km 40, Sitio Lapantay, Sitio Marmulan, Sitio Kanluman and Sitio Bulabud, did not want to be caught in the crossfire in case of another firefight.

But the lowlanders go back to their villages during the day to attend to their properties, he said.

Romy Sinduraan, 37, a resident of Km 37, said they were afraid to go back to their residence because of the beheaded man found yesterday morning, some five kilometers away from the ambush site in Barangay Villaflor.

Puerto Galera police head Chief Insp. Policarpio Lopez said the dead man identified as Anthony Martinez, 37, had been claimed by his wife who resides in Barangay Aninuan.

He confirmed the report of an attack by armed men at the relay station of Globe Telecom in Barangay San Isidro. He said the wires were cut and a grenade was thrown on the generator.

Mayor Aristeo Atienza said he had asked those who suspended their classes and offices to resume normal activities because the incident, which occurred in the boundary of San Teodoro and Puerto Galera, is far from poblacion, or about 13 km away.

Business firms resumed operations yesterday but classes were still suspended.

Atienza said yesterday's curfew was made verbally to safeguard those 18 years old below.

Militant groups, meanwhile, claimed that the ambushed soldiers did not come from a peace mission but from a "terror mission."

Pamalakaya national chair Fernando Hicap, told the INQUIRER that prior to the ambush, Palparan and his soldiers "were on a rampage, killing and abducting ordinary people and mass activists in Puerto Galera identified either with party-list group Bayan Muna or with our group."

He cited an initial report prepared by human rights groups Karapatan and Ecumenical Movement for Justice and Peace (EMJP) that reportedly said: "Before the ambush, Bayan Muna member Oscar Sacdalan and Pamalakaya members' Vedasco Anilao Lalong-Isip and Jude Garcia were summarily executed on Nov. 23 and the dawn of Nov. 24."

The report added that during the same period, eight persons were also abducted by alleged military elements.

Two of the supposed victims were identified as Anthony Danez Martinez and Jun Saducos, both leaders of the Nagkakaisang Mamamayan ng Puerto Galera, an alliance of people's organizations opposed to privatization and conversion of Puerto Galera coastal areas, according to Hicap.

For Bayan Muna, Palparan was no hapless ambush victim "but a certified human rights violator and a "butcher" of innocent civilians and political activists in the island province of Mindoro Oriental."

Murder raps filed vs suspect in 'gift bomb' attacks

STA. CRUZ, Ilocos Sur—Police on Tuesday filed double murder charges against a landowner in Ilocos Norte in connection with the killing of a father and his daughter when a "gift bomb" exploded here last week.

Local police officials asked reporters to withhold the identity of the suspect until the municipal trial court here issued an arrest warrant against the suspect. Police said the motive for the attack was a land dispute.

Leopoldo Caligtan, a former minister of the Pentecostal Church, died on Sunday night, six days after he received the deadly package on Nov. 18.

His daughter, Marjorie Lovely, 8, was killed instantly when she opened the "gift bomb."

Two other Caligtan children—Shiela, 14, and Ryan, 19—suffered second and third degree burns.

Doctors in San Fernando City in La Union ordered the transfer of Shiela to the Philippine General Hospital in Manila for further treatment.

"Aywanan yo ni Daddy (Take care of my Daddy)," Shiela was quoted as telling her relatives.

Her relatives, however, did not tell her that her father had died. "We knew that she would further suffer (if she learned about her father's death)," Elvira Caligtan, her mother, told the INQUIRER.

The mother said she agreed with the police's findings on the suspect and the possible motive in the attack.

"The suspect wanted to kill us all," she said.

The two tricycle drivers, Elias Jandoc and Ricardo Acosta, who delivered the package to the Caligtan family house at Barangay Daligan here, were not included in the complaint after the police found that they had no knowledge about the contents of the package.

Police officials said the tricycle drivers will be tapped as witnesses.

A radio program in dzXE here started a fund drive to help the Caligtan family in burial and hospital expenses. *Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

UP cancels classes to protest budget cut

CLASSES at the University of the Philippines College Baguio were suspended from 10 a.m. to noon on Tuesday as students, teachers and UP personnel staged a protest rally on Session Road to denounce the government's reduction of subsidy for state colleges and universities (SCUs).

The 200 protesters, led by members of the All UP Workers Union and the National Union of Students of the Philippines, also criticized the government's privatization plan for SCUs where institutions are required to draw up income-generating programs to compensate for the budget cut.

UPCB Prof. Celia Austria, convenor of AUP-WU, said privatization would not only affect the quality of education in state universities like UP but would also endanger the UPCB's bid to become an autonomous constituent unit.

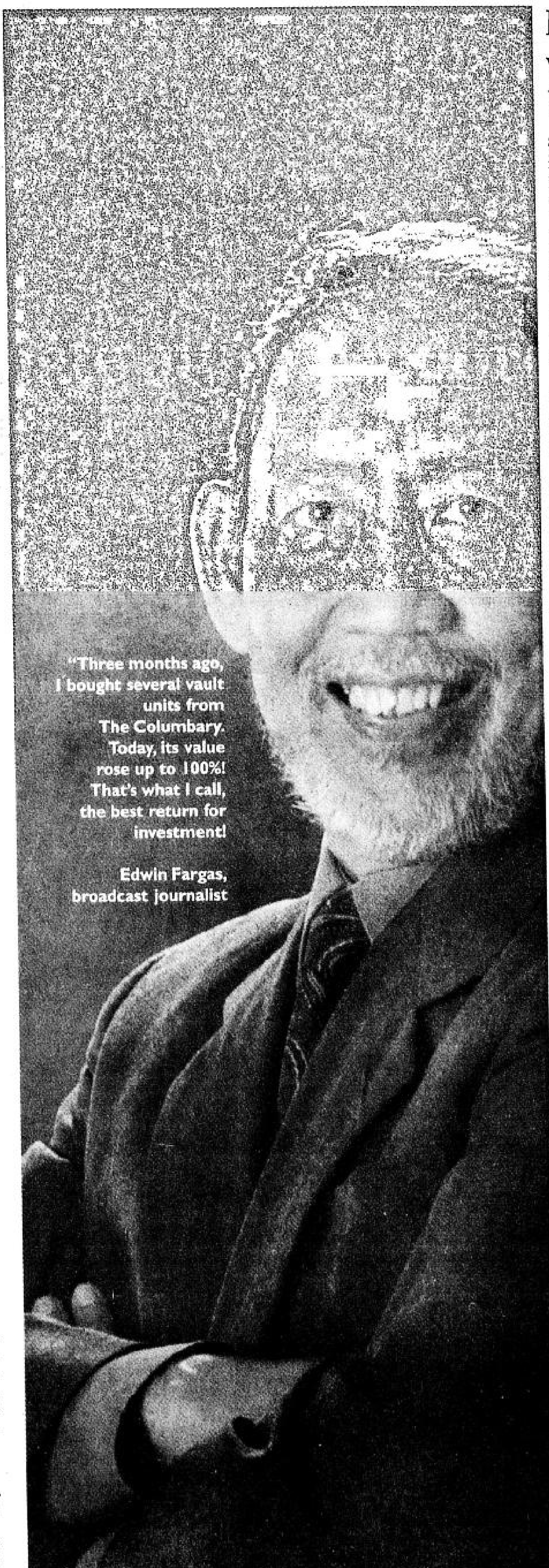
"We need books, not bullets!" chanted UP students in the Diliman campus, as they marched out of their classes yesterday to protest the P13.9-million cut to the budget of the UP system.

Clad in red shirts, the students gathered at the Quezon Hall and trooped to Mendiola.

Rally organizers originally called on students to walk out from their classes, but they did not have to, as UP Diliman Chancellor Emerlinda Roman issued a memorandum canceling all classes.

"This shall mark UP's collective stand against the government's continuous neglect of the education sector. It is high time the government realize that it is putting the fate of UP education at stake by not giving it enough budget," Student Regent JPaul Manzanilla said.

The UP administration has asked for a budget of more than P7 billion for the fiscal year 2003, he said, but the Department of Budget and Management has recommended only around P4.325 billion, which is P13.9 million lower than the P4.338 billion allocation given to the state university last year. *Agnes Donato, with a report from Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*


"Three months ago, I bought several vault units from The Columbary. Today, its value rose up to 100%! That's what I call, the best return for investment!
Edwin Fargas, broadcast journalist

"The right investment"

Investing is a very challenging task especially
during these times. When making an investment,
we look for big returns and low risk ventures.
You get these when you invest at The Columbary.

What makes it even more reassuring
is the fact that it is built by the Augustinian fathers,
the same order who built historical landmarks like the
San Agustin Church in Intramuros.

It is time to make your investment work for you.
Like Edwin and all the other successful investors
at The Columbary, you will see
how your investments
will grow leaps and bounds .

Come and visit us at the
2nd floor One Joroma Place, Congressional Ave., Q.C.
and learn how you can make the wise investment.
Our offices are open Monday to Saturday,
9:00 up to 5:00. We will be more
than happy to meet you.

The Columbary

San Agustin Seminary Campus, Fisheries St.,
Visayas Ave., Quezon City.
For inquiries call us at 425-1508, 425-1509, 425-1510,
926-7254, 753-2532, 753-2533
411-2067, 373-3777

8 NPA rebs killed, 5 held in separate encounters

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—Not only one but seven New People's Army rebels were reported killed in the Nov. 20 encounter with government troops in Carranglan, Nueva Ecija, an Army official said in a report here Monday.

Col. Jovenal Narcise, chief of the 702nd Infantry Brigade, identified the slain rebels as Fernando Panggao alias Ka Nardo; Esteban Crisostomo alias Ka Jun-Jun; and Gary Soliven alias Ka Jepoy.

The three others were identified only through their aliases—Ka Anton, Ka Arthur and Ka Ed Peralta/Ka Popoy. The rebels were residents of Lupao, Cuyapo, San Jose City and Carranglan.

Narcise said the body of Kim Aguila or Kumander Karim, the first identified fatality in the firefight at Sitio Lomboy Bukid in Barangay Puncao in Carranglan, had not yet been claimed by his relatives.

Their identities were known through their relatives who went to the headquarters of the 71st Infantry Battalion, the Army unit responsible for last Wednesday's operation, he said.

He said four other rebels were wounded in the 30-minute clash.

Narcise said the rebels belonged to the second guerrilla front, also known as "Channel," of the NPA's Nueva Ecija committee led by one Ka Omeng.

The rebels, he said, were preparing to destroy the Kita-Kita telecommunications relay station in the town.

In Legazpi City, an NPA rebel was killed, several were wounded and five others were captured in an encounter with government troops in Bacon, Sorsogon at 4 p.m., Monday, a police report said.

Senior Supt. Arne de los Santos, Sorsogon police director, identified the slain rebel as Concoy Dume alias Ka Leo and the captured rebels as Domingo Barquin and Samuel Barquin, both of Labo, Camarines Norte; Nicomedes Discaya, Teodoro Discaya Sr. and Teodoro Discaya Jr. all of Barangay Gatbo, Bacon, Sorsogon.

De los Santos said an undetermined number of rebels and a Civilian Armed Forces Geographical Unit (Cafgu) member were wounded.

In his report to Bicol police director Chief Supt. Rodolfo Tor, De los Santos said Sorsogon police and 2nd Infantry Battalion soldiers encountered about 20 armed men while conducting security operations at Sitio Macawayan, Barangay Gatbo, Bacon, Sorsogon.

A .38-caliber pistol with two live ammunitions and several empty shells were recovered, while the wounded Cafgu was brought to the Sorsogon Doctor's Hospital for medical treatment.

De los Santos said the slain communist rebel was brought to Funeraria Patria in Burgos St., Sorsogon City, while the arrested were subjected to custodial investigation pending the filing of charges in court.

In Camarines Norte, Barangay Captain Azucena Imperio of San Rafael, Panganiban town turned over an M16 rifle, ammunitions, communist documents, four hypodermic syringe with needles and toiletries to the municipal police station, according to Supt. Rodegelio Herrero, Panganiban police chief.

In Imus, Cavite, an alleged NPA member shot dead a construction worker while on his way home in Barangay Anabu here on Sunday night, police said.

Victim Chito Bantulay was pronounced dead on arrival at the De La Salle Medical Center due to a lone bullet wound at the back of his body. Investigation disclosed the unknown suspect shot him several times using a high-caliber firearm. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk; Ronnie Lorejo with a report from Fausto Tatad Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

CHRISTMAS PREPARATIONS
City workers spruce up the lanterns in Baguio for the coming Christmas holiday.
TOOTS SOBERANO

Iligan mayor faces suit over landfill project

ILIGAN CITY—Mayor Franklin Quijano and at least 9 other officials are facing a suit over a sanitary landfill project to be funded by a P234 million loan from the Land Bank of the Philippines.

Also named respondent in the class suit filed before the Regional Trial Court here were Land Bank President Margarito Teves, City Treasurer Ernesto Balat, City Accountant Camilo Empleo, City Budget Officer Marina Jumalon and at least six councilors.

In their complaint, Allan Flores, Ruperto Eltanal, Vicente Sator and Mario Putong, who claimed they were acting on behalf of the city's taxpayers, said the contract entered into by the city and Land Bank was "onerous."

They said the loan agreement, backed by a city council resolution, was "disadvantageous to the government" because it requires the city to transfer 60 percent of its Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA) of P400 million to the Land Bank after a two-year grace period.

The loan is payable in 15 years at 24 percent interest per year.

The complainants also aired doubts the loan would be enough to cover the expenses for the landfill. *Christine Godines-Ortega, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

ROUNDUP

5 die in mishap

BALANGA CITY—Five people, including two children, were killed while five others were hurt after a truck hit a car in Dinalupihan, Bataan on Thursday, police said. Police identified the fatalities as Herman Velasco, 27; Crystal Velasco, 29; Mark Dave Velasco, 2; Analyn Acebedo, 2; and Benjamin Ferrer. The victims were passengers of an Olongapo City-bound Honda Civic car driven by Ferrer. Police said the truck driver, Fernando Batac, tried to avoid hitting a man aboard a bicycle along the highway at Barangay Saguing in Dinalupihan but the truck swerved and hit the victims' car in the opposite lane. ***Greg Refraccion, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

Illegal center

CALAPAN CITY—Four graduates of a six-month caregiver course filed an estafa complaint before the city prosecutor here against the management of the Maple Leaf Training Center-Mindoro Branch after one of the complainants, Marita Gonzales, found that she did not meet the requirements of the "Live-in Caregiver" Program. Verifications made by the National Bureau of Investigation in Calapan showed that Maple Leaf Training Center-Mindoro Branch is not accredited to offer caregiver's training and has not been issued a mayor's permit as a caregiver training center for overseas employment. The victims have each paid P10,000-P11,000 and demanded refunds. ***Madonna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Teachers recognized

CALAPAN CITY—In recognition of teachers who serve in far-flung areas of Oriental Mindoro, the Search for the Outstanding Programang Pangedukasyon para sa Kalibliban (PPsK) teachers was launched during the 52nd Founding Anniversary of the province last week. The provincial government is funding the salary of 100 teachers, 30 of them facilitators who organize literacy and livelihood trainings in remote areas in Mindoro. Since this year, the 30 teachers have been assigned to handle multi-grade classes. ***Madonna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Alcohol ban

CALAPAN CITY—The Oriental Mindoro provincial board has passed separate ordinances prohibiting the sale of cigars and alcoholic beverages to those 18 years old and below. Those caught selling cigars to minors will face a maximum of 30 days imprisonment or a fine of not less than P1,000. The other ordinance restricts the access of minors to alcoholic beverages and bans liquor firms from sponsoring any sport, concert, or cultural events involving minors. Also banned is the selling of alcoholic drinks near schools. ***Madonna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Another eaglet hatched

DAVAO CITY—Another eaglet came out of its shell on Saturday after 54 days of incubation.

The second Philippine Eagle (*Pithecophaga jefferyi*) to be conceived this year was hatched at about 7 p.m. at the Philippine Eagle Center in Malagos, Baguio District here according to the center's officials.

The still unnamed eaglet, which weighed 142.6 grams, was the product of an artificial insemination technique using 8-year-old female eagle Kahayag and 24-year-old male eagle Junior.

The two eagles had already produced at least three offspring since November of 2000, two of which are still unnamed and awaiting adoption.

The Philippine Eagle Foundation (PEF) also announced the rescue of a wounded female eagle in Liloy, Zamboanga del Norte on Friday last week.

The 5.8 kilograms sub-adult unnamed eagle was airlifted to the center in Malagos on board an Air Force helicopter.

The eagle was reportedly held captive by her captors for three months before they scouted for a possible buyer in Dipolog City.

A businessman from Liloy spotted the sellers and agreed to buy the bird.

Then the businessman, identified as John Lee Lim, contacted the eagle center and sent pictures of the eagle for confirmation.

When his suspicion was confirmed, the businessman agreed to turn over the eagle to the PEF.

It is now undergoing treatment after an x-ray image revealed the presence of at least four pellet bullets inside her body.

She also has colds and needed medication.

The PEF has been trying to breed eagles in captivity to increase the bird's population.

Since 1992, it successfully hatched 12 eaglets but only 11 survived, including the one hatched on Saturday.

One of the foundation's goals is to release offspring back into the wild to help complement the bird's population in the wild.

The PEF's field research program aims to address many biological questions that will provide the basis for hands-on management of eagles in the wild.

The foundation had already mapped nests of Philippine eagles in at least eight Mindanao provinces from 1991 to 1998.

"We need to find out what other necessary things that we still need for a full reintroduction program for us to see how captives birds are behaving in the wild. There may be other things we do not know in the Philippine setting," Dennis Salvador, PEF executive director told the INQUIRER. *Joselle Badilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Compaq business
TRADE IN.
TRADE UP.
SAVE MORE.
RENEW IT.

Compaq Evo N800v notebook
PhP 85,999.00
- Mobile Intel® Pentium® 4 Processor 1.8GHz - M
- 128MB DDR SDRAM
- 20GB Hard Disk Drive
- 14.1" display
- Microsoft® Windows® XP
- 56K V.90 internal modem plus 10/100 NIC
- 24x CD-ROM Drive
- 3 years warranty on parts and labor

Compaq Evo D380MX desktop
PhP 47,999.00
- Intel® Pentium® 4 processor 1.8GHz
- 256MB DDR SDRAM
- 40GB Hard Disk Drive
- Intel® Extreme Graphics 845G
- 52x CD-ROM Drive
- 38.1cm (15") CRT Display
- Microsoft® Windows® XP
- 1 year warranty on parts and labor

Get more in return with Compaq's Renew IT Trade-in offer. Give us your working or non-working desktop, notebook, or PDA, and we'll give you discounts when you buy new Compaq models. You may choose from a wide variety of desktops like the Compaq *Evo* D380MX or notebooks like the Compaq Evo N800v, or Compaq Presario 1503AP - all powered by Intel® Pentium® 4 processor and Mobile Intel® Pentium® 4 Processor - M. Visit your nearest accredited Compaq Trade-in stations now. Promo period is from November 9 to December 31, 2002 only. See flyers for more details.

For more information on the Compaq Renew IT Program
call (632) 867-3557
or toll-free 1-800-1331-4488
email ph.contact@hp.com

COMPAQ
brought to you by hp

Compaq recommends Microsoft® Windows®XP

Accredited Compaq trade-in stations:

HMR Philippines, Inc.
Belman Bldg., Sheridan St. corner Reliance St.
Mandaluyong City

NAMRAC Industries, Inc.
Philacor Drive, Dr. A. Santos Ave.,
Sucat Rd. Parañaque City

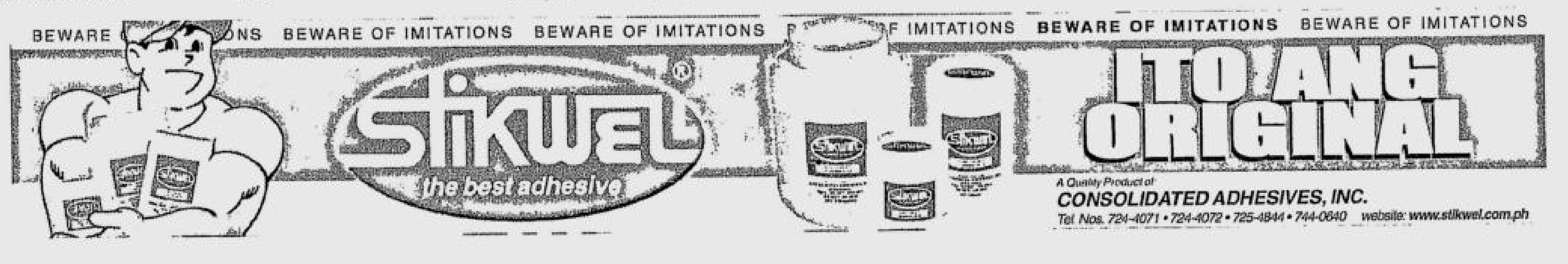
Save on Surplus Pasong Tamo
Save a Lot, American Mall,
2284 Pasong Tamo Ext. Makati City

Save on Surplus SM North Edsa
Ground Floor, SM City Carpark Building,
North EDSA, Quezon City

Fivejays Office Equipment
Don V. Sotto St. corner Osmeña Jr. St.,
Pier 3, Brgy. Tinago, Cebu City

©2002 Hewlett-Packard Company. All rights reserved. Intel, the Intel Inside Logo and Pentium are trademarks or registered trademarks of Intel Corporation or its subsidiaries in the United States and other countries. Other products mentioned herein may be trademarks or registered trademarks of their respective companies.

Per DTI Permit No. 2217, Series of 2002.


BEWARE OF IMITATIONS BEWARE OF IMITATIONS BEWARE OF IMITATIONS BEWARE OF IMITATIONS BEWARE OF IMITATIONS BEWARE OF IMITATIONS
Stikwel®
the best adhesive
ITO ANG ORIGINAL

A Quality Product of
CONSOLIDATED ADHESIVES, INC.
Tel. Nos. 724-4071 • 724-4072 • 725-4844 • 744-0640 website: www.stikwel.com.ph

E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph
INQUIRER Northern Luzon
Editor Jun Bandayrel ◆ Bureau Chief Rolando B. Fernandez

PHOTOS BY EV ESPIRITU

Baguio of pine trees and 108 gongs

By Frank Cimatu
Baguio City

FOR Eastern philosophers, it is not 100 which is the ultimate number but 108. Among Indians, for example, 108 means completeness and wholeness. There are 108 cowgirls devoted to Krishna, 108 holy places of the Vaishnavas and 108 beads of the Hindu and Buddhist rosaries.

The Buddhist also describes the 108 feelings. These constitute the 36 feelings (the six feelings—those based on your senses and the mind—of gladness based on the household life and six based on renunciation; six feelings of sadness based on the household life and six based on renunciation; six feelings of equanimity based on the household life and six based on renunciation) you are feeling today, the 36 you felt in the past and the 36 you will feel in the future.

To commemorate those who died during the Sept. 11, 2001 terror attacks, some Buddhist temples in the United States struck their bells 108 times to remind us of our 108 defilements, which require our mindfulness for eradication.

To open the 6th Baguio Arts Festival, festival director Kathleen de Guia, also past president of Eckankar Philippines, and artist Antonio Romawac gathered 108 *gangsa* or Igorot gongs and 108 boys to beat them.

Wearing g-strings in the cold dusk, the boys formed a large spiral at the *dap-ay* (indigenous altar) at Burnham Park in Baguio City as they beat their 108 gongs.

It was unfortunate that it was a full moon last Friday because "108" also has a special astronomical meaning. If you pile up 108 moons, you will reach the Earth and if you also pile up 108 Earths, you will reach the sun.

The significance of 108 was not lost on De Guia and the other members of the Baguio Arts Guild (BAG) when they focused on healing as the theme of the festival.

After the July 16, 1990 earthquake, the Baguio Arts Festival also focused on healing, bringing artists to heal the wounded city. A soup kitchen was put up by the artists to feed the hungry then.

The late Roberto Villanueva's "Atang ti Kararua" at the Burnham Lake—floating hundreds of candles with prayers on boats of coconut shells—has become a tradition every July 16.

Now the wounds inflicted on the city include the development projects led by misguided politicians and the loss of spirituality among the artists, one of the BAG artists said.

Most of the performances are by Baguio-based artists like Ben Cabrera and his fellow Tam-awan artists, Kidlat Tahimik, the Bobleh Group of Asin Village, Kawayan de Guia, the Pinikpikan and balik-Baguio singer Grace Nono, who launched her new album at Kidlat's Vocas Multi-art Center at the La Azotea Building on Sunday.

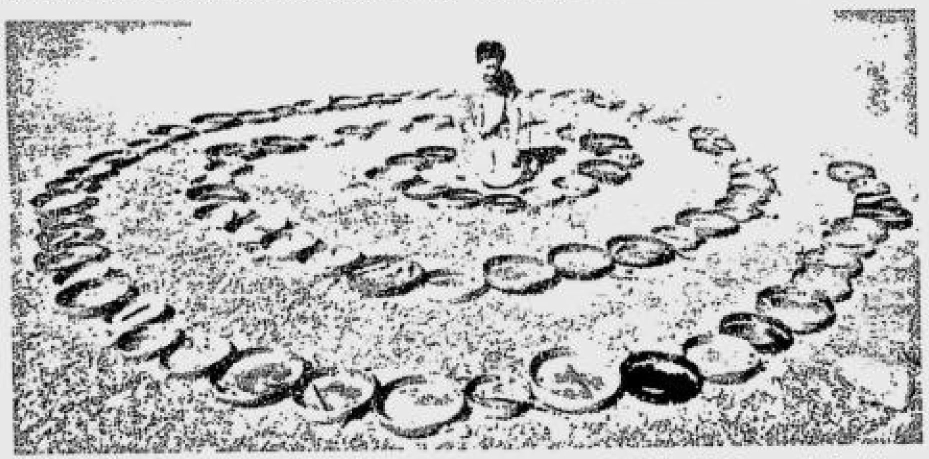
Baguio poets led by Butch Macansantos, Pia Arboleda and Baboo Mondoñedo also read their poems at the Café by the Ruins last Monday.

"BENCAB," a book on the life and works of Ben Cabrera, was launched yesterday at the Tam-awan Village.

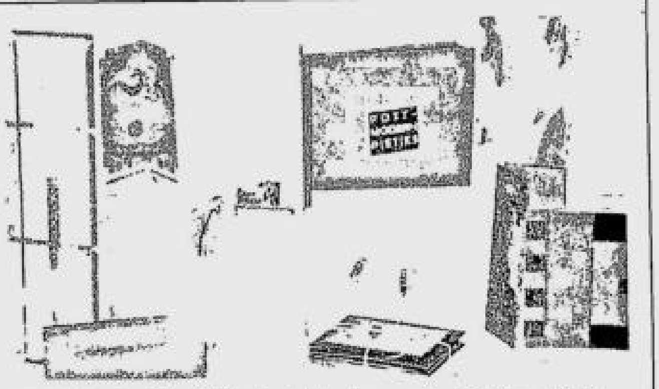
Metro Manila-based artists are also coming to perform for the festival.

Myra Beltran of Dance Forum will perform her "Trace of a Trace" at Vocas, together with dancer Mia Hsieh of Taiwan. Other performers throughout the week are the Dinayaw Festival Group, the SLU Dance Drama and the Bower Clan at Tam-awan. Pamela Becker will introduce dance medicine to help women with immune system problems.

Aureaus Solito will screen his new full-length documentary, "Basal Banar," as well as Koji Imaizumi's documentary "Abong."



THIS boy plays the "tumapayac," a wedding beat, in the center of a circle of 108 gongs during the 6th Baguio Arts Festival. The number of gongs represent the Buddhist prayer for spiritual harmony.



'BOOKS as Such' exhibit: Bookbinding as a 'vehicle for artistic expression.'

Books as art

By Victoria Rico-Costina
Contributor

"OF THE MAKING of many books there is no end" intones the preacher of Ecclesiastes. But if he had seen the handmade books written and crafted by University of the Philippines College Baguio professor and literary critic Delfin Tolentino Jr., he would have been thrilled.

Housed at the Maryknoll Sanctuary Gallery in Baguio City, "Books as Such" is the first solo exhibit of its kind in the country, others having been group shows held at the Luz Gallery in Makati. Tolentino's works were also featured in these earlier exhibits.

The exhibit features more than 20 individually crafted works using mixed media: handmade and commercial paper, boards, wood, paper ephemera, organic materials and others.

The books are bound by hand, using traditional means, like the Japanese style of four-hole binding done in variations.

Tolentino sees bookbinding as a "vehicle for artistic expression," the book taking on different shapes, its covers and inside pages serving as a "form of canvass."

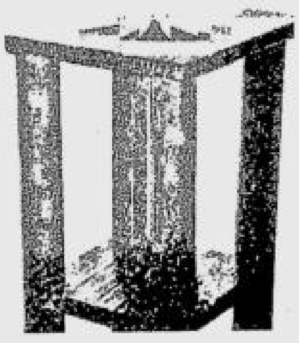
He opts not to use "text-heavy" pages so what is highlighted is the "overall sensuousness of the book as an art object."

Tolentino's works are exactly that, so utterly beautiful, one is almost afraid to handle them. But one must, for the pleasure.

Two of the most exquisite works are the bound books of Tolentino's translations of Japanese and Chinese poetry in Filipino.

The one on Japanese poetry, "Mga Butil ng Hamog," has ochre pages with Japanese prints, mostly of geishas sipping tea in their boudoirs. One turns what looks like gold leaf papers to see the poetry.

Tolentino's writing in these books is in itself compelling. Two foldout books with cutout designs engage the viewer. One of them is entitled "Ode for a Beloved Infidel": "Violets are blue and you are so untrue."



One other book, entitled "Doors" contains Tolentino's poem, a line of which says: "Incredible how a door can mystify . . ."

The biggest book is a four-paneled foldout entitled "Butikiko: A Lizard Book," with a lizard shaped in rope on its cover.

The book has sections on the lizard as cultural motif, poetic subject, and story character. Butikiko is the name Tolentino gave to a friendly pet lizard that lived in his kitchen, behind a photo of Rizal. The pet meets a tragic death when it takes refuge in Tolentino's microwave oven.

Another work, called "Crossings," is clearly inspired by Nick Bantock, a ropebound series of cards with posted letters.

"Filipina4U.com" satirizes mail order bride transactions, and "Postmodern Pieties" offers a collage on alienation, visual and textual: "Life is one terrific pastiche."

But the most absorbing work, admittedly, is Tolentino's compilation of Imelda Marcos quotations, entitled "The Quotable Madame."

The book that Tolentino made out in at least three editions has sold out. Photographic images of pudgy post-Malacañang Imelda punctuate the categorized quotations, for which Tolentino did extensive research.

The compilation is vintage Imelda: "The only gold my husband has is in his heart." And: "There is a hole in outer space through which cosmic rays bear down upon our islands."

Delfin Tolentino's first solo exhibit "Books as Such" at the Maryknoll Sanctuary Gallery in Baguio City has been extended to Dec. 8.

THE GRAND REUNION
DR FE DEL MUNDO
Babies

November 27, 2002 / 10 a.m.
Fe del Mundo Children's Medical Center
11 Banawe Street, Quezon City

Stand up
& be counted.

For particulars, contact Kathy Sula at 757 3162
or abenskal@yahoo.com or myvoice@isla.ph;
Lyn Imperial, 712 0845 loc 178, apcj@yahoo.com

Flight 585 'black box' blank; LaoagAir used 'recycled' gear

From page A1

(FDR) worn out.

The device's aluminum foil, used as recording medium, turned out to have been "recycled," making it impossible for investigators to read the data, such as the plane's altitude, speed and fuel level.

"We don't know which data (in the FDR) pertained to the latest flight," De Ocampo said during Tuesday's hearing of the fact-finding committee headed by former Transportation Undersecretary Arturo Valdez.

"There were many overlapping data on the aluminum foil, which should have been used only twice . . . The data could no longer be deciphered," he added.

The cockpit voice recorder (CVR) was not working either, according to Valdez. The CVR should have captured on tape the sounds in the aircraft before the crash, such as the conversation between the pilots and the noise from the engines.

Had the CVR and FDR been working, they would have provided investigators valuable information on the cause of the crash that killed 19 people.

"There was nothing to analyze. The CVR and FDR were in good physical condition but they offered no information. Definitely nothing, zero," De Ocampo said.

Even so, Valdez said the absence of information from the CVR and FDR would not affect the investigation.

Maintenance

"This is again a reflection of the (kind of) maintenance being observed by the airline," he said.

"It (plane) should not have taken off in the first place," said Valdez who stressed that no flight should be allowed without a working black box.

LaoagAir spokesperson Alvi Yater said the Air Transportation Office and its own maintenance personnel gave the ill-starred Flight 585 the go-ahead following a thorough systems check.

Yater, however, admitted the systems check did not cover the black box.

"The practice in the Philippines is that the black box is checked only on occasion. If authorities require checks of the black box before every flight, only new aircraft would be able to fly," he said in a statement.

"(The black box) is not mandatory for a flight operation. It's the practice here in the Philippines since it's difficult to regularly maintain the black box," Yater added.

He said the black box was primarily for the use of aircraft makers. "They use it to review what went wrong so they could prevent similar happenings with their other aircraft," he said.

Friday deadline

The fact-finding committee is expected to submit its findings and recommendations to President Macapagal-Arroyo on Friday.

During Monday's hearing, retired Philippine Airlines pilot and Air Safety Foundation chief Amado Soliman pointed out that only two of the plane's four booster switches were turned on.

One of the switches on the off position controlled the flow of fuel to the plane's engine.

"The engine has already been investigated by the fact-finding committee. We found that the fuel switch and one of the engine switches was on the off position," Valdez said.

Video footage taken before the crash and testimony from other witnesses indicated that the plane's two engines conked out one after the other before it plunged into the sea. *With a report from AFP*

Reds not keen . . .

From page A1

"But most likely there shall be no Christmas ceasefire declaration for at least four reasons," he said in reply to an INQUIRER query.

Sison said the Macapagal administration wanted no rest from its policy of all-out war. "It is no longer interested in resuming the peace negotiations, the regime finds no more use for the ceasefire," he said.

Sison said the Macapagal administration and the US government recently signed the Mutual Logistics Support Agreement which, he claimed, violated the national sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Philippines.

He also accused the Armed Forces of the Philippines, Philippine National Police and Civilian Armed Forces Geographical Unit of always violating ceasefire agreements.

But Maj. Gen. Roy Kyamko, chief of the military's Southern Luzon Command, said the rebels had been taking advantage of past ceasefires "to conduct other unlawful activities, like extortion, in pursuit of their terroristic activities to overthrow the government."

Ermita said the military and police were ready to deal with rebel threats and attacks but appealed to the guerrillas to halt attacks during the Christmas season.

"In the spirit of Christmas, I wish they would take into consideration the welfare of the people, the ones they claim they're fighting for," he said.

Ermita said the government would keep pursuing peace negotiations. According to him, the government is finalizing a draft accord it plans to propose to NDF negotiators, notwithstanding recent NPA attacks.

He said the latest attacks, including the burning of telecommunications towers and ambushes on government troops, were "killing efforts to come up with confidence-building measures that would nurture a return to the peace talks."

NPA guerrillas burned a cellular telephone transmission tower near the resort town of Puerto Galera on Mindoro island on Monday. Since July, NPA rebels have torched at least eight telecommunications towers in Southern Luzon alone. The military estimated the damage had cost telecommunications companies about P200 million.

On Sunday, NPA rebels ambushed an Army convoy near Puerto Galera, killing four soldiers and wounding nine others, including a brigade commander.

In Agusan del Sur province on Sunday, about 80 NPA guerrillas raided a mining firm, disarming guards then running off with a dozen high-powered firearms, the military said.

The Macapagal administration suspended peace negotiations last year after NPA guerrillas assassinated two lawmakers and a number of politicians.

The Maoist-oriented guerrillas reached their peak strength in the 1970s and 1980s during the rule of dictator Ferdinand Marcos. They have been weakened considerably in recent years by battle setbacks, factionalism and loss of support.

The military says there are presently about 10,000 communist guerrillas armed with more than 6,900 firearms throughout the country. *With report by AP*

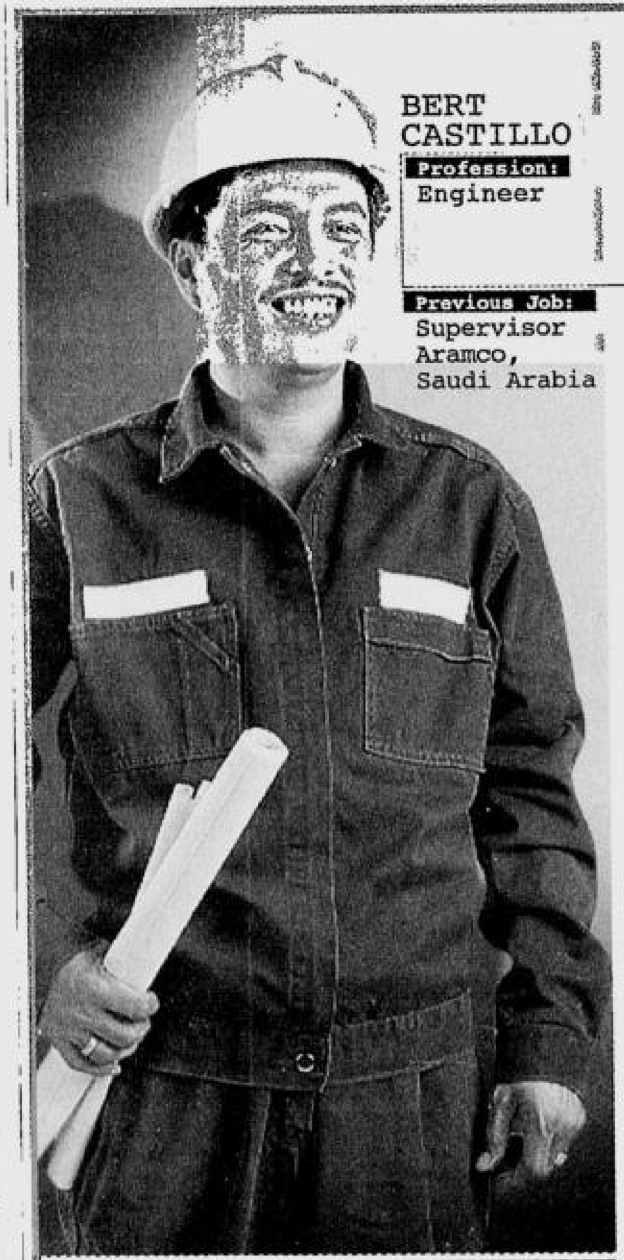
Mr. Roxas,
your barber is ready
to see you.

Gentlemen,
we have gathered the best barbers in town to please the most discriminating like you. In a place like no other, with the kind of service you prefer.

Experience the unique pampering service of Hugo's, the 5-star style station for men, at surprisingly friendly prices. Come for a haircut (as low as ₱135, would you believe), hairstyling, haircoloring, moustache trimming, massage, facial and nail grooming. Shoeshine service is also available. Plus two VIP rooms with a mini bar for those with a passion for privacy. No long waits, Hugo's is more than fully staffed.

Gentlemen like you will feel right at home at Hugo's. See us at Podium 4, Yuchengco Tower I, RCBC Plaza, Ayala Avenue, Makati. For more details, please call Tel. No. 888-4682.

HUGO'S
BARBERS



BERT CASTILLO
Profession: Engineer
Previous Job: Supervisor Aramco, Saudi Arabia

"Thanks to the Gulf War, I am now with Cocolife. Best decision I ever made."

Present Job: Cocolife Financial Planner & Branch Manager

"As a supervisor at Aramco, I was earning $1,800 a month. Ten years ago that was big money. But when the Gulf War erupted, I had to go back to the Philippines. And the option open for me was to join Cocolife. Well, that move gave me the freedom to live my life.

For once, I was free to be my own boss. I had a lot of free time to spend with my family. And best of all, I had financial freedom. This allowed me to send my kids to the best schools and pursue any course they wished. Right now, one is taking up law and the other is taking up medicine. I am very grateful to my friends who encouraged me to become a Cocolife Financial Planner."

Cocolife is offering a challenging career in Financial Planning. Call or see us. We'll discuss the benefits, the compensation, the privileges. You'll be amazed at what you're going to hear.

COCOLIFE
FREEDOM TO LIVE YOUR LIFE

Send this coupon if you want to be a Cocolife Financial Planner.

Name : ____________________
Address : ____________________
Tel. No. : ____________________ Ref.#2B

COCOLIFE Building, 6774 Ayala Avenue, Makati City Call Center : 810-7888 Fax No: 812-9039 Website:www.cocolife.com

Contact Nos.: Head Ofc 812-9037 *(look for Nancy/Janet)* • South Luzon 812-9042 • Caloocan City 363-7657 • Makati City 812-1713 • Taft Ave., Ermita, Mla. City 524-1838 • Santiago City, Isabela 078-682-8954 • Dagupan City 075-522-7722 • Sn Fdo, Pampanga 045-963-7372 • Cebu City 032-233-9098 • Iloilo City 033-337-8769 • Cagayan de Oro 0882-272-1497 • Pagadian City 062-214-4258 • Davao City 082-224-4903

No money, no Nani; Jimenez unmoved

From page A1

he was waiving his right to bank secrecy laws to prove that his Trade and Commerce bank account had transferred the money, and then challenged Perez to exercise the same waiver for the Coutts Bank account.

MJ's evidence

Jimenez said his evidence was a one-page instruction sheet that Escaler allegedly faxed to him in February 2001.

"My question is, where is Ernest Escaler?" Jimenez asked.

In his privilege speech, Jimenez said Escaler gave him instructions on where to send the money.

Jimenez, through his son Marcel Crespo, furnished the INQUIRER a copy of the faxed document, which had the name "Escaler and Company" and the Manila phone number 892-8519 on the faxline. *(See banner story.)*

Jimenez said Escaler fronted for Perez and was always present in his house whenever Perez was there.

He also said Perez's defense was crumbling because, in a radio interview yesterday, the justice secretary reportedly admitted that he saw Escaler in Hong Kong sometime in February last year after he (Jimenez) wired the money to Coutts bank on Feb. 23.

"He said that Escaler is not his friend but mine but how come on the same day the money was wired to that account, they were together in Hong Kong?" Jimenez asked.

The controversial congressman, the subject of a US extradition case, said it would be easy to prove his accusation because he agreed to waive his rights to bank secrecy.

DENNIS SABANGAN

SON rushes to the defense of his father, Justice Secretary Perez. Batangas 2nd District Rep. Frank Perez speaks at the House of Representatives to counter the allegations of his colleague, Rep. Mark Jimenez.

He also expressed confidence that he could pin Perez down. "The jail which he said belongs to me belongs to him," he said.

Jimenez has not yet filed the charges which he said he would lodge before the Ombudsman against Perez.

He said his lawyers were still finalizing the charges but that it would include extortion and torture.

Separate letters

Burton and Heer of Coutts issued their letters in response to two separate queries. Perez and Arceo both wrote the bank on Nov. 19.

The reply to Arceo's letter was dated Nov. 25, while Perez's was dated yesterday.

Arceo provided the INQUIRER with a copy of his letter addressed to Heer, which asked for confirmation or denial of the alleged numbered account.

"Several newspapers in the Philippines mentioned that I have (an) account in Coutts Bank wherein an alleged $2-million dollar deposit was made under my name in account HO 13706," wrote Arceo, who attached newspaper clippings dealing with the alleged account.

He asked Heer to clarify the matter and "to issue a certification that I have no account with your bank now or in the past."

But in the event that an account was indeed opened in his name, Arceo said he would like to know who opened the account and the other details of the transaction.

"Since I have not opened any account with your bank, I would like to know if I have been a victim of fraud or identity theft. Thus, I would like to request for copies of account opening forms i.e. signature cards and identification papers presented during account opening," he said. Arceo identified himself as the chair of SoftTech Advantage Inc.

Younger Perez

In the House, it was the turn of Batangas Rep. Frank Perez to deliver a speech defending his father.

He used up no more than five minutes to assert that his father was "not evil-spirited and demonic" as Jimenez portrayed him the previous day. He also said Jimenez's accusations were baseless.

But he said he commiserated with Jimenez's situation and held no grudge against him.

Maguindanao Rep. Didagen Dilangalen pointedly asked Perez if his father informed him about all his activities, to which Perez said "No."

Dilangalen asked Perez if he would convince his father to allow Coutts Bank to open any account not named after Perez but for which he has beneficial interest.

Perez said he was willing to talk to his father but added that Coutts Bank had already signified its willingness to certify that his father did not have any account there.

Perez later told reporters he does not believe his father was an extortionist.

"This does not make sense. Why is he pursuing the extradition of Congressman Jimenez if he took the money?" Perez said.

He said his father asked him to deliver a speech on his behalf.

The younger Perez said he would not advise his father to resign.

"Of course not. Why should he resign when he's only doing his job? I would advise him to relax, don't let the stress affect him, and to keep up the good work," Perez said.

Deputy Speaker for Visayas Raul Gonzalez said Jimenez's charges were serious but "they remain accusations and are not synonymous with guilt."

GUTIERREZ

Gutierrez is acting DOJ chief

JUSTICE Undersecretary Merceditas Gutierrez, whom the President designated yesterday as acting justice secretary, was a classmate of First Gentleman Mike Arroyo at the Ateneo de Manila Law School.

This native of Samal, Bataan, is a camera-shy justice official who would rather attend to her tasks than accept interviews. Yet she is fluent in several languages, including German, French and Spanish.

Gutierrez literally rose from the ranks in government service. It took her about 18 years before she was appointed as one of the four justice undersecretaries.

Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said it was Justice Secretary Hernando Perez who recommended Gutierrez to be acting secretary in his absence.

"And the President knows Mercy. She knows her work. And she has full confidence in (her) integrity," Tiglao said. *Michael Lim Ubac*

The importance of being Ernest Escaler

From page A1

Children Foundation Inc. to assist then Vice President Gloria Macapagal who was also the social welfare secretary during the Estrada administration with fund-raising activities for her charitable projects which could not be funded by the government such as day-care centers.

Two years ago, he brought in Fil-Am performers led by Lou Diamond-Phillips for a fund-raising project for Ms Macapagal with dinner at the Mandarin reportedly paid for by then Equitable PCIBank chair George Go.

The fund-raiser enhanced the perception that Escaler was one of GMA's point men.

The source said Escaler has been a backroom operator regardless of who sits in Malacañang. During the Ramos administration, Escaler joined the First Lady, his neighbor in Tagaytay, to form the Tagaytay City Advisory Council.

Scion of wealthy clan

A scion of the De Leon-Escaler clan of Pampanga, Escaler is the son of Don Ernesto Escaler, founder of the Phinma group and Bacnotan Consolidated Industries Inc. The family owns vast tracts of property in Pampanga. His family also ran the Pampanga Sugar Development Co. (Pasudeco).

He lives in Forbes Park but his jet-setting lifestyle keeps him abroad most of the time.

An active Ateneo alumnus, he's one of the ardent supporters of his school's UAAP basketball team. His brothers are Noel, an investment banker and Pancho, a well-known photographer.

Diverse, copious

Escaler's own business and civic affiliations are as copious as they are diverse.

Check him out also as impresario, estate manager, venture consultant, agri-businessman, call center service provider, restaurateur (Gourmet Café), coffee exporter, chair/president of the basketball academy, travel agency owner and others too numerous to mention in this space.

Danding ties

"He's very shrewd and works well in quick deals," said an Escaler associate who requested anonymity.

Escaler was allegedly used by Marcos crony Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco as a front for the latter's takeover of Pepsi-Cola Philippines Inc. in the 1970s.

Escaler was reported to have brokered the deal which allowed Cojuangco to skirt anti-competition rules and take over a rival company. At that time, Cojuangco held a significant stake in San Miguel Corp., which owned Pepsi's rival Coca-Cola Bottlers Philippines Inc. The source said that people were divided on what ECI Holdings (Pepsi's controlling shareholder before Edsa 1986) stood for—Eduardo Cojuangco or Escaler Cojuangco.

Today, Escaler is still president of ECI Trading Co. described as "a pioneer" in the export of coffee to the world market until the late '90s. "Gourmet Coffee" started the establishment of Escaler's well-known Gourmet Café chain of restos in Manila and Tagaytay.

But his involvement in the League of Adorers is particularly worth noting. The founding president, Escaler heads this Catholic ministry that is devoted to spreading the practice of adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

Company he keeps

Last year, he staked millions in the new version of the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical, "Flower Drum Song," starring Lea Salonga at the Mark Taper Forum in downtown LA.

Last month, "Flower Drum Song" had a benefit special preview presented by the Asian Cultural Council (ACC) whose honorary members include New York designer Josi Natori, Ada Mabilangan, Isabel Caro Wilson, socialite and civic leader Lily O'Boyle and, of course, Escaler.

Last week, Escaler was seen at dinner at the Cultural Center for a visiting Rockefeller heir, along with Justice Secretary Perez, Pastor "Boy" Saycon and Copa's Tingting Cojuangco.

'Till there was 2M"

With ABS-CBN's Gina Lopez, he conceptualized and marketed in October, 2001, a series of concerts at Rockwell to raise funds for the reforestation of the La Mesa Dam watershed. At the finale number of the Retro @Rockwell night, Escaler was cajoled to belt out a song. A sarcastic observer thought he heard a rendition of a "Till There was Two Million" but was sharply corrected by a more forgiving company that it was actually Lennon/McCartney's "Till There Was You". *With reports from Vic Agustin and Gil Cabacungan Jr.*

Nani's brod-in-law is a bank expert

By Elena R. Torrijos

RAMON Arceo Jr., the brother-in-law of Hernando Perez, has been a banker for a long time.

He worked at Philippine Commercial International Bank (PCIB) for over 25 years, taking on various posts in branch banking, credit, etc. In 1998 he resigned from PCIBank as comptroller and executive vice president in charge of technology.

He also sat on the board of various subsidiaries of PCIBank.

He was president and later chair of Bancnet, Inc.

A certified public accountant who graduated from the University of the Philippines with a bachelor of science in business administration, Arceo is currently chair of Softech Advantage Inc. and a member of the board of regents of the University of Batangas. He is also a candidate for a master's degree in business administration at the De La Salle University.

He was until recently also director of the United Coconut Planters Bank, one of the government representatives appointed by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Sources said that sometime in the middle of this year

ARCEO

Arceo, together with two other bank directors, were trying to wrest control of UCPB.

Arceo together with directors Helen Osias and Rolando Golez reportedly wanted to reduce the powers of the UCPB bank chair and CEO Eduard Go.

The three Macapagal-appointed directors attempted to railroad the bank's scheduled board meeting last May by inserting items not included on the previously approved agenda.

A source told the Inquirer that the items centered on cutting back on the power of Go while increasing that of the board and of the executive committee composed of among others Osias, Arceo and PCGG Commissioner Ruben Carranza.

Money trail hard to track if ...

From page A1

changed. Also, every bank has their own policies and requirements in regards to fictitious name or numbered accounts. In other countries, the laws may be quite different. If you surf the Net, you can access a number of websites offering offshore numbered accounts services.

Bank secrecy law and practices generally prohibit not only the revealing of account type and balance, but also of acknowledging that you're a customer or revealing, when you made your last transaction.

Some of the known examples of fictitious accounts are that of Jose Velarde, William Saunders and Jane Ryan.

The testimony of witness Clarissa Ocampo that former President Estrada signed bank documents as Jose Velarde was one of the highlights of the Estrada impeachment trial and the ongoing plunder trial.

The investigation on the Marcos hidden wealth in 1986 uncovered four Swiss accounts, two under the pseudonyms of "William Saunders" for Ferdinand Marcos and "Jane Ryan" for Imelda Marcos.

Numbered account

To provide more protection or truly hide the identity of the depositor, one may open a numbered account, which is identified by a number rather than by a name. A numbered account does not mean that nobody at the bank knows who the real owner of the account is. The real owners of the account are known to the top bank officials.

Anti-Money Laundering

Nowadays, most local banks, according to a local bank official, have abolished numbered accounts to comply with the Anti-Money Laundering Act.

Sec. 9 of R.A. No. 9160 states that banks shall "maintain accounts only in the true and full name of the account owner or holder" and that "anonymous accounts, accounts under fictitious name, and all other accounts shall be absolutely prohibited."

The Anti-Money Laundering Act, however, allows the opening of peso and foreign currency non-checking numbered accounts "provided, that the true identity of the customers of all peso and foreign currency non-checking numbered accounts are satisfactorily established based on official and other reliable documents and records."

The official added that a person needs to be physically present to open an account. This is again in line with the Act which prohibits opening accounts without face-to-face contact as well as to ensure that accounts are not under fictitious names.

The bank executive added that "no person can open an account in another person's name unless it is a trust account or if the account to be opened is for a minor." In such cases, the bank has trust agreements and asks for the usual identification requirements and the birth certificate of the minor for the latter account.

These are the usual practices of the bank to comply, specifically, with the provision of the Act for banks to, " maintain a system of verifying the true identity of their clients, and in case of corporate clients, require a system of verifying their legal existence and organizational structure, as well as the authority and identification of all persons purporting to act on their behalf."

Likely scenario

A bank president said the most likely scenario that could have happened in the alleged Perez-Jimenez transaction was that the latter could have asked for a special power-of-attorney from the former so he could open an account for him in Hong Kong.

The special power-of-attorney allows one to act on behalf of the depositor.

"He could have been aided by this fellow, Ernest Escaler who reportedly works for Coutts Bank which is a Swiss bank that has a branch in Hong Kong," the president of a foreign bank told the INQUIRER.

Unless of course, added the banker, Perez himself during one of his trips opened the account himself.

Now if somebody else had opened the account for him bearing a power-of-attorney, that person could sign the account opening forms as well as signature cards on his behalf.

Personal appearance

But the procedure does not end there. Before the overseas bank, in this case Coutts Bank in Hong Kong, would agree to open the account, it would ask the Hong Kong or China consulate in Manila to verify the authenticity of the power-of-attorney.

Perez would be required by the consulate to appear in person and attest to the veracity of the power-of-attorney he had issued.

"The consulate will require a personal appearance from the issuer of the power-of-attorney. And such authentication is required before an overseas bank would agree to open the account. The procedure is similar elsewhere," said the bank president.

A president of a domestic bank, however, noted that with the global fight against money laundering, it has become more and more difficult to open an account for another person.

The know-your-customer practice that is being required by regulators from banks everywhere makes it harder to launder funds.

"The more likely scenario is that Perez opened the account himself or somebody else is acting on his behalf. It could be under the account of Escaler," said the local bank president.

Difficult to track

The best thing to do, said the bank president, was to require Perez to issue a special power-of-attorney to Coutts Bank to attest whether or not an account under his name exists.

"This was what they had asked (Senator Panfilo) Lacson to do regarding his supposed deposits in Citibank. Perez should extend the same courtesy to the public," said the bank president.

"With a special power-of-attorney, the bank can disclose whether such account exists. The problem is, if the money was deposited in somebody else's name. In that case, the money trail would be more difficult to track," said the bank president.

TO THE FILIPINO PEOPLE

FILIPINOS now enjoy reliable 400 megawatts of the unique electric power services provided by the Caliraya-Botocan-Kalayaan (CBK) pumped storage power plants. More than 2000 people working at these Laguna plants will bring them to their full 750-megawatt capacity by middle of 2003.

THIS IS WHAT WE CAN SHOW THE PEOPLE!

IMPSA, over seven years, has submitted the CBK Project for the scrutiny of three administrations:

1. In 1993, during the term of President Ramos, IMPSA proposed the Project and won it in competition with FPPC of the Lopez Group, after a Swiss challenge undertaken pursuant to the BOT law.
2. During President Estrada's term the contract was signed and all approvals required by law were obtained, including those from the NEDA, ICC, BOI and DENR. President Estrada executed "Full Powers" authorizations leading to the issuance of the Performance Undertaking and Government Acknowledgement and Consent Agreement by the DOF. In June 2000 then Justice Secretary Tuquero signed the first DOJ opinion. In January 2001, upon request of then DOF Secretary Pardo, Secretary Tuquero prepared the final DOJ opinion, which stated that all documents were in proper order.
3. Under the administration of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, Justice Secretary Hernando Perez reviewed and signed the final DOJ opinion.

THIS IS WHAT WE CAN SHOW THE PEOPLE!

LEGALLY the contract is entirely above-board. A case filed at the Pasig Trial Court has been dismissed and later dropped at the Court of Appeals, while a case filed with the Office of the Ombudsman has been dismissed for lack of merit. Several Senate Committee investigations sponsored by Senator Serge Osmeña were conducted, but established no proof of wrongdoing and made it very difficult to obtain international financing for the Project.

The Project has passed independent review. International rating agencies, our partner **EDISON MISSION ENERGY**, 19 international banks, political-risk insurance companies that heretofore took unprecedented cover on the Philippines –have all done their due diligence examinations and would not have committed their resources to the Project if there were any evidence of impropriety.

THIS IS WHAT WE CAN SHOW THE PEOPLE!

INVESTMENT to date is **US$ 384 million,** of which US$ 115 million is attributable to Kalayaan I, taking into account the associated cost of common facilities, insurances, duties, taxes, interest, security deposit, spares, training. The first disbursement amounted to US$ 161 million. These figures can be validated by *Bangko Sentral*. Thus, only those who want to see this Project fail could believe the yarn that we have invested only US$ 9 million.

Napocor requested us to advance the rehabilitation of Kalayaan I. The precarious condition of the plant as well as findings made during rehabilitation is fully documented; Unit 2 was on the verge of collapse due to serious problems.

- Unit 2 was upgraded four months before the contract took effect. Now that Kalayaan has been fully upgraded and modernized, and operates among the best performers in the world, some quarters say that there was no need for rehabilitation!

- If Napocor had waited to repair until 2004 as detractors said they should have done, in all likelihood there would be no Kalayaan plants operating today. That would have been disastrous for Napocor because:

    - At peak, it will have to use very expensive and inflexible substitutes, and

    - At off-peak, it will have no substitute at all for the pumping services, as Kalayaan is the sole pumped storage plant in the country.

THIS IS WHAT WE CAN SHOW THE PEOPLE!

* * *

PERHAPS it is time for detractors to stop propagating absurd allegations:

- A first independent report recommended payment to CBK for work well done. A subsequent report made during one weekend, based on false assumptions and information given by disgruntled and former Napocor personnel that did not even consider Appendix B of the Supplemental Agreement, is now being used as a basis for yet another Senate hearing.
    - Then there is the incredible claim that the old spillway vibrates (?), and that the new spillway, which can be seen from Caliraya Road, was removed from the contract.
    - The height of ludicrousness is the claim made at the Senate that IMPSA copied the technology of existing pump-turbines when it is proven that the IMPSA design is authentic, different and performs better.

IMPSA is now being falsely accused of bribing government officials. Absolutely ridiculous! The CBK Project is covered by the US Foreign Corrupt Practices Act that imposes criminal penalties upon executives for improper payments.

- **IMPSA once and for all vigorously objects to and categorically denies allegations that it bribed any Cabinet official or others in the Philippine Government.**

NOW, we challenge anyone to come forward and show concrete evidence of any wrongdoing or impropriety that IMPSA has done. To our detractors, we say, it is not enough to hurl baseless and malicious accusations in the press and say that you have proof without actually presenting any:

WHAT UNQUESTIONABLE EVIDENCE CAN YOU SHOW THE PEOPLE?

OUR company owes it to all of those whose names have been unfairly defamed. We thank all the people who have worked with us and believe in the merits and benefits of the Project. Despite all these distractions and insinuations, we will remain focused on delivering the services needed and deserved by the Filipino people.

IMPSA

MJ keeping key evidence

From page A1

sent—shows that the instructions were sent on Feb. 14, 2001 and came from "Escaler and Company." The Manila fax number was listed as 892-8519.

The document, apparently addressed to Chase Manhattan Bank in New York City, was "For acct. of" Coutts Bank Account No. 400-922932 and "in favor of" Account No. HO 13706.

Another document, called a Payment Detail Report, purportedly confirms the transaction.

In his privilege speech the other day, Jimenez said he had transferred some $2 million from his bank to the Coutts account, for the eventual use of Perez. But yesterday, top officials of the bank certified that Perez was never an account holder, whether directly or as a beneficiary. *(See accompanying story.)*

Leave of absence

After talking to Perez on the phone on Monday night, the President asked him to go on a 30-day leave of absence effective today.

President Macapagal-Arroyo said Perez had to go on leave so that the Department of Justice, "one of the most critical agencies of the executive branch, is not in the least affected by the allegations made against its head."

She also appointed Undersecretary Merceditas Gutierrez acting DOJ chief, upon Perez's recommendation. *(See story on Page A18.)*

But the President also challenged Jimenez to substantiate his claims within 30 days, to prove he wasn't playing "a political game, or a strategy to evade extradition proceedings against him." If Jimenez can't prove his charge, he must apologize to Perez and to Congress, Ms Macapagal said.

"If he cannot provide credible indications—and I am not demanding evidence that can stand up in court but merely plausible substantiation—the congressman must apologize directly to the justice secretary and to the Congress, which he has used as a forum for his charges."

While the President tried to hew close to a neutral line, her men were more categorical in their support for Perez.

Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said Perez would "definitely" be reinstated if Jimenez fails to substantiate his allegations.

"He (Perez) is on leave for a definite period. And he's not leaving his post. There's only an officer-in-charge (at the DOJ)," he said last night.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said Perez's contention that Jimenez raised the extortion issue to delay the extradition proceedings sounded about right.

Perez "is relentless ... in pursuing the extradition case and he is already close to nailing MJ (Mark Jimenez) down, so maybe the theory of MJ is best defense is offense," Bunye said.

PEREZ: One month definite leave. ROGER MARGALLO

Tiglao said Jimenez has to come up with more credible proof "other than his personal testimony and two pieces of (bank transaction) paper."

"If Jimenez can't prove it, then he should say so, so we can end this."

But if Jimenez could substantiate his claim, "let the evidence lead where it will lead to."

"We have our justice system. Our prosecutors, our Ombudsman, know how to handle this," Tiglao said.

He denied that the President was "protecting" Perez, but pointed out that the burden of proof falls on Jimenez, being the accuser.

Senate reaction

Senate President Franklin Drilon, saying he had met Perez for lunch at the Manila Diamond Hotel yesterday, told Senate reporters Perez was going on leave to prepare his defense in the investigation to be conducted by Congress and the Anti-Money Laundering Council.

"He invited me for lunch and he denied the charges against him and he said that he is heeding my advice to go on leave starting today," Drilon said.

"Secretary Perez agreed with me that he could no longer perform effectively his functions as secretary of justice at this point given all his problems," Drilon added.

Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. welcomed Perez's decision, saying it was "good for him, good for the administration and good for the country."

But he criticized the President for asking Jimenez to back up his charges with evidence or apologize within 30 days if he failed to do so.

"That's a very bad way to start because she's setting a deadline to ferret out the truth. What is more important is a responsible agency or body is given the assignment to investigate the issue," Pimentel said.

Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. said the Coutts Bank statement and Perez's decision to go on leave may or may not have bearing on the bicameral investigation which will start tomorrow night.

"We don't want to preempt what's happening between Secretary Perez and Congressman Villarama and Mark Jimenez," Magsaysay said.

"But it's good that he started to go on leave so that he will have all the time and effort to focus on clearing his name," he added.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson, Perez's nemesis in the Senate, said Coutts Bank was telling the truth that the account did not belong to Perez, but only because it was Arceo's.

Lacson said that Arceo, who used to sit on the board of the United Coconut Planters Bank and is a former vice president of PCI Bank, was used by Perez to conceal his tracks.

But Coutts also denied Arceo was an account holder.

Probe underway

With Perez on leave, the President gave Perez's subordinates their marching orders: investigate their boss for alleged extortion.

She ordered the acting DOJ chief and the National Bureau of Investigation to organize a special team to probe Jimenez's accusations.

She told them to try to scrutinize the Coutts bank account in Hong Kong.

"As Chief Executive, I am issuing this direct order to the incoming officer-in-charge of the DOJ and the NBI to organize a special team to acquire and evaluate all the evidence (Jimenez) claims he has or can produce," Ms Macapagal said.

"I am directing the Department of Foreign Affairs to assist the NBI and the DOJ to undertake talks with foreign governments or their banking regulatory offices to allow the scrutiny of these pertinent foreign bank accounts," she added.

Earlier in the day, Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said the Philippine Anti-Money Laundering Council could not investigate the bank accounts in question since they are with a Hong Kong bank.

He said Hong Kong bank secrecy laws would apply in this case.

"It's not up to us, it's not within our jurisdiction. It's not pertinent to Philippine banks, to Philippine bank secrecy laws. It's pertinent to another jurisdiction," Camacho said.

But he nonetheless welcomed Jimenez's offer to open his account since this would help the investigation.

The Ombudsman also finally got going. Several days after Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo said Jimenez's allegations were "not yet ripe" for investigation, he said.

He had written Jimenez yesterday for copies of the privilege speech and other documents supporting his allegations, including a "sworn statement."

"The investigation has officially begun," Marcelo told the INQUIRER on the phone. *With reports from Volt Contreras, Michael Lim Ubac; AP, AFP*

World's Greatest Grandpa
World's Greatest Grandma
WORLD'S GREATEST DAD
World's Greatest Mom
World's Greatest Brother
World's Greatest Sister
World's Greatest Apo
World's Greatest Auntie
World's Greatest Uncle
WORLD'S GREATEST COUSIN
WORLD'S GREATEST NEPHEW
World's Greatest Niece
World's Greatest Brother-in-law
World's Greatest Sister-in-law
World's Greatest Cousin-in-law
World's Greatest Cook
World's Greatest Driver
World's Greatest Yaya

For the biggest family,
the country's biggest washer.

With its huge 11 kilogram capacity, the LG Twin Tub Maxima is perfect for extended families and extraordinary loads of laundry. Its mighty punch action makes sure clothes won't get tangled, while the power of its three mini pulsators guarantee a cleaner wash saving you a lot of time, effort, energy, not to mention money.

LG
Life's Good! LG Collins Electronics Manila No. 15 F. Legaspi St., Maybunga, Pasig City Tel. Nos. 641-4181 up to 85. Fax 640-0460. Customer Information Center: 640-2525

GOODYEAR GOODIES GIVEAWAY!

FREE GOODYEAR FLASK for every purchase of 2 Goodyear Passenger Radial Tires or 2 Goodyear Fortera Tires

FREE GOODYEAR CAP for every purchase of 2 Goodyear Wrangler Tires or 2 Goodyear ULT Radial or LT Radial Tires

FREE GOODYEAR TOWEL for every purchase of 2 Goodyear Bias Tires or 2 Radial Medium Truck Tires

Promo good from November 16, 2002 to January 31, 2003 in all Goodyear Servitek & TyrePro outlets!

GOODYEAR
One Revolution Ahead

www.goodyear.com.ph

Per DTI-NCR Permit #2229, Series of 2002

SIX DIGIT
1 6 4 9 2 6

SUERTRES (In exact order)
7 3 4

6/42 Luzon
3 12 15 21 34 40

Vis-Min
8 10 11 18 21 32

E-mail: pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph

SPORTS

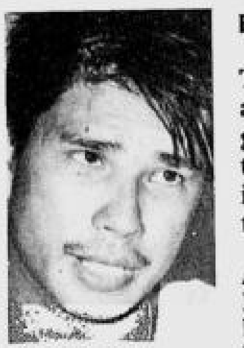
Editor Al S. Mendoza ● Assistant Editor Edwin M. Villanueva

Hoteliers, restaurateurs golfest set

THE HOTEL & Restaurant Association of the Philippines will hold the 2nd HRAP Fun Golf Tournament on Nov. 29 at Intramuros. Call 5275113 or 5279926 for details. Organizers include Bobby Dimayuga, Alan Dimayuga Tess Aquino, Michael Hermann, Rosanna Guerrero, Leah Navarro and Manny Parroco.

SENATE PROBE

10 Fil-Ams fake, says Jolas


LASTIMOSA

By Rocky Nazareno

THEY LIVE in posh condominiums, are guarded round-the-clock by bodyguards-cum-drivers. They receive their salaries in dollars and are lavished by side contracts which give them extra revenues and benefits.

These chosen few are called the Filipino-American (Fil-Am) cagers–25 in all–and their local counterparts at the Philippine Basketball Association (PBA) are up in arms over "the influx of bogus Fil-Am" and the "double standard treatments, benefits and privileges accorded to them."

According to Alaska forward Jojo "Jolas" Lastimosa, "about 10 of the 25 Fil-Ams are fake." He did not name them, though.

At the Senate yesterday, Lastimosa and his fellow local PBA players came in full force at the start of the series of hearings that seeks to determine whether or not the so-called Fil-Ams really have Filipino blood and could be allowed to play as co-equals of homegrown talents in the PBA.

The Fil-Ams currently seeing action here are Jonathan Ordonio, Danny Seigle, Noy Castillo, Jonathan Arigo, James Walkvist, Kenny Evans, Ali Peek, Rob Wainwright, Michael Hrabak, Anthony dela Cruz, Alex Crisano, William Antonio;

David Friedhof, Robert Duat, Nicholas Belasco, Rudy Hatfield, Chris Jackson, Rafi Reavis, Paul Asi Taulava, Dorian Pena, Eric Menk, Michael Pennisi, Davonn Harp, Andy Seigle and Jeffrey Cariaso.

PBA GAMES TODAY

(Philsports Arena)]
5:30 p.m.—FedEx vs Shell
7:30 p.m.—Purefoods vs Sta. Lucia

Record ₱154M is Marho take

By Dennis U. Eroa

ARISTEO "Putch" Puyat, president of the Metropolitan Association of Racehorse Owners, yesterday bared a record-breaking sales of P154 million in the recent Marho racing festival.

The total sales exceeded the old record of P146 million posted during last year's staging of the Mitra Cup. The Marho's take was the result of five racing days with a total of 55 races.

"The support given by our racing aficionados is simply overwhelming. Marho promises to continue its programs to keep the horseracing industry alive and kicking," Puyat told yesterday's PSA Sports Forum at the Holiday Inn.

Puyat said Marho will continue to hold the 8th edition of the Breeders' Cup and the Founder's Cup next year.

Puyat also told the INQUIRER that Marho will work hand in hand with Philtobo in order to continue the development of the horseracing industry and the betting public.

"I believe that Marho and Philtobo must have the common goal of advancing the cause of the horseracing sector. For one, Marho members are also part of the Philtobo," said Puyat.

UE Warriors target Champions League crown

GAME TODAY *(Makati Coliseum)*
3 p.m.--Three-point shootout
3:30 p.m.--FEU vs UE

UNIVERSITY of the East caught Far East University napping in the second half to post an 82-58 romp yesterday and move within a win of clinching the Champions League 2002 crown at the Makati Coliseum.

The UE Warriors try to cut short the best-of-three finals when they meet the FEU Tamaraws in Game Two today.

Ahead by just three points at (35-32) at interval, the Warriors drew firepower from Paul Artadi and Jhay-Arr Estrada to pull away and then banked on James Yap and Ronald Tubid to finish off the Tamaraws and move closer toward their second straight title under coach Boyzie Zamar.

The Warriors also ruled the Bantay Bata Showdown last month.

Artadi, fellow Warrior Allan Omiping, Tamaraw Arwind Santos, and UV Lancers Neil Raneses and Ronald Quinahan were named to the Mythical Five. *Roy Luarca*

Cunanan, Inocencio leaders

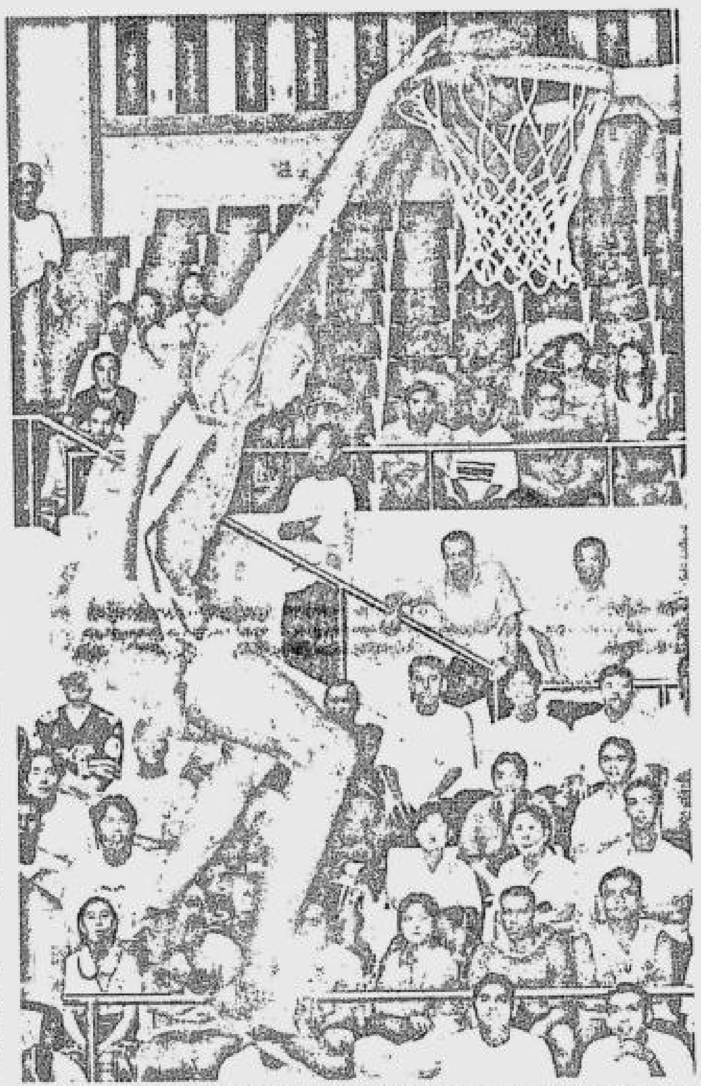
VETERAN Laarni Cunanan and Caloy Inocencio shot respectable rounds to take the early lead in class A/B singles of the 28th National Open duckpin bowling championships Monday at the Marketplace center along Kalentong Street, Mandaluyong City.

Cunanan rolled a two-game series of 372 pins to pace Maa Aregla (366), Tina Eisma (357), Geena Gregorio (356) and Indang Castillo (344) in the ladies' division.

Inocencio posted 422 to move ahead of Boying Magday (390), Louie Tandingan (389), Val Almazan (373) and Jun Santos (370) in the men's group.

Ironically, Inocencio landed only third in Class C singles with 375, behind Almazan (390) and Boy dela Cruz (381) but ahead of Winnie Sotto (373) and Jaime Vicente (371).

Mandaluyong Mayor Benhur Ablos graced the opening ceremony together with other officials and promised to support PHIDBC's programs, especially the bowling clinics for the youth.


NIÑO Canaleta of the University of the East makes the winning dunk during the Champions League slam dunk competitions yesterday at the Makati Coliseum. The 6-foot-6 slotman beat fellow Red Warrior Ronald Tubid in the dunk-off.
JESS YUSON

Archers clash tomorrow

THE NATIONAL Archery Association of the Philippines' four-day national target championships will reel off tomorrow with close to 150 from 26 teams all over the country vying for honors at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

Leading the individual entries are national (recurve) archers Jennifer Chan, Rachelle Anne Cabral, Joann Tabanag, Jasmin Figueroa, Marvin Cordero, Christian Cubilla, Florante Matan, Arnold Rojas, Nerickzon Fraginal, Bryan Carlo Figueroa, Jasmin Figueroa, Palarong Pambansa titlists Edwina delos Reyes and Raeselle Lloyd Reyes of NCR and RP (compound bow division) bets Raul Ramon Arambulo, Adam Jimenez, Gen. Jose Marlowe Pedregosa, Earl Yap and Dr. Juan Nanagas.

NBA stars enjoy 'Like Mike'

THANKS to a pair of magical basketball shoes, the dream of a fourteen year-old, 4-foot-8 teen to become a famous basketball player becomes a reality.

This, in a nutshell, is the story of Calvin Cambridge, a hip-hop star who displays amazing hoop skills and leads a struggling NBA team to victory.

In "Like Mike," Calvin beats NBA superstars Alonzo Mourning, Gary Payton, Chris Webber, David Robinson and Jason Kidd.

Legend says the shoes belonged to a great basketball cager.

Twentieth Century Fox's new sports comedy–set to open Dec. 4–is an impressive collaboration between the movie producers and the NBA.

The players themselves enjoyed their brief stint as movie stars.

"A lot of times athletes and entertainers don't really understand the impact you have on kids' lives," says Robinson of the San Antonio Spurs.

"I thank everyone on "Like Mike" for giving me a chance to be in this movie and for the chance to make a difference," said Webber of the Sacramento Kings.

Mourning, of the Miami Heat, said: "Dreaming helps build a little confidence and establishes hopes for kids. They're confronted with so many obstacles in life and you want to make sure to keep your dreams alive."

"The NBA's been a great partner on this picture," said Peter Heller, producer. "To allow us to shoot during their All-Star break, one of the biggest media events of the year, was unbelievable."

The message of the film: a young boy fulfilling his dreams partially through the help of the NBA, certainly had a positive impact on the league and its decision. *Dennis U. Eroa*

Milo netfests move to Ormoc Nov. 28-30

AFTER THE successful completion of its 13th leg in Sta. Cruz, Laguna, the Milo Junior Tennis Cup and Regional Workshop moves to Ormoc, Leyte, on Nov. 28-30.

Now on its 12th straight year, the Milo Tennis Cup and Regional Workshop has helped a lot of the country's youth.

The Junior Tennis Cup is an age-group tournament held over three days. The standard categories for players are 18 and under, 16 and under, 14 and under, 12 and under, and 10 under.

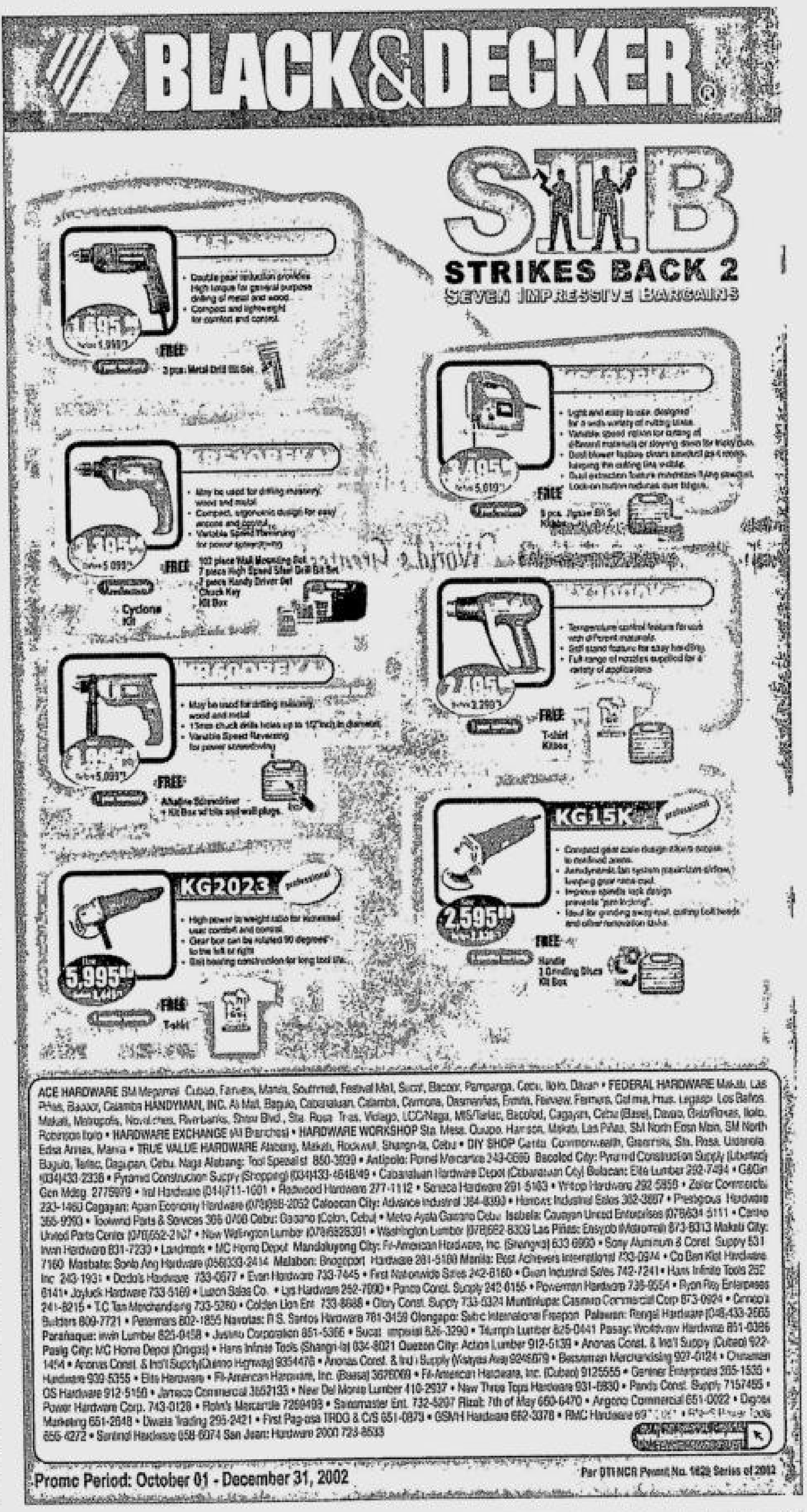
The tournaments are sanctioned by the Philippine Tennis Association (Philta), which gives points to the participants to establish their national ranking. The system determines the country's representatives for junior international competitions.

The Regional Workshop is a beginner's clinic that teaches basic tennis skills to all interested youths from the age of 5 upwards.

The Milo Regional Tennis Cup and Regional Workshop has 15 legs this year, culminating with the yearend age group tennis championships at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center Dec. 26-30.

Papa Sampras

LOS ANGELES—US Open champion Pete Sampras and his actress wife Bridgette Wilson have announced the birth of their first child Christian Charles.


BLACK&DECKER
STB
STRIKES BACK 2
SEVEN IMPRESSIVE BARGAINS
FREE
KG2023
5,995
KG15K
2,595
Promo Period: October 01 - December 31, 2002

Canon
DIGITAL CAMERA
Instant pictures with
Canon Digital Cam Kits
Shoot your own photos now with the new PowerShot Digicam Kits!
With Canon's shoot, direct-printing you can produce your own pictures in an instant!
DIRECT PHOTO PRINTER
CP-10
2 PowerShot A200 Megapixel 4X Digital Zoom
Promo Price: A200 Kit
Php 16,500 Only
A PowerShot A100/A200 Digital Camera Kit includes a CP-10 Direct Photo Printer.
Promo period: November 1 to 30, 2002
DIRECT PHOTO PRINTER
CP-10
1.2 PowerShot A100 Megapixel 3X Digital Zoom
FREE
Promo price: A100 Kit
Php 13,500 Only

Participating Dealer Outlets: AVENUE PHOTO Tels.: 733-2761; 733-5474 • VILLMAN COMPUTER SYSTEMS INC. Tels.: 892-2222; 815-1986 • TCA Tels.: 637-1200; 810-5090 SILICON VALLEY Tels.: 415-5171; 633-1723 • PRODATA Tels.: 911-4619; 439-6234 • DATACORE Tels.: 726-4541; 842-1021 • ACCENT MICRO / PC LIVE Tels.: 634-2417; 633-1722 COMPLINK Tels.: 687-1234; 687-3160 • ELECTROWORLD Tels.: 747-2054; 813-2776 • FOTOHAUS Tels.: 734-4471; 734-3304 • MAYER PHOTO Tel.: 733-7722 • ISLAND PHOTO Tels.: 813-6907; 840-2757 • PHOTOPLUS Tels.: 371-1388; 371-1777 • HENRY'S CAMERA Tels.: 733-7723; 734-6198 • CANON SHOWROOMS: Metro Manila Tels.: 635-6038; 455-2847, Cebu (032) 234-0470, Iloilo (033) 320-1957, Davao (082) 297-8460 • ALEJANDRA ENTERPRISES Tuguegarao (078) 846-9164 • COLOURS FOTO Cebu (032) 254-1820 • VS TAY Davao (082) 221-4036

What's the score?

Call *3200 (toll-free)
for a full list of Star*Codes sports updates!

myGlobe | STAR*CODES

No need to type-in keywords or scroll down menus.
Star*Codes is the super, easy way of getting news and info!
Save your choice Star*Codes in your phonebook for easier access.
Rates for calling specific sports updates:
P2.00 for Plan, P2.50 for Prepaid Subscribers.

making great things possible Globe HANDYPHONE

Buhain reiterates support for trackfest

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE PHILIPPINES' hosting of the Asian track and field championships next year gained momentum yesterday following a successful meeting between the top guns of the Philippine Sports Commission and the Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association.

PSC chair Eric Buhain remained supportive of the the country's third hosting of the prestigious event which the country last hosted nine years ago.

Buhain conveyed his support to Patafa president Go Teng Kok during their one-on-one meeting as both agreed that the country would be put on the world athletic stage in September next year.

BUHAIN

GO

Go has proposed that the Patafa and the PSC shoulder the projected P30 million budget on a 50-50 basis in the event that will see the participation of world athletic powers like China, Korea and Japan.

The proposal, according to Go, is for the PSC to take care of the rehabilitation of the Rizal Memorial track and field stadium and oval, which will be the site for athletics in the 2005 Southeast Asian Games in 2005.

Buhain said he would try his best to squeeze in funds for the project even as he cited the projected slash in the agency's budget.

Buhain has actually started the ball rolling when he approved the release of $20,000 (P1.06M) to the AAA representing the country's hosting bond last September.

Go said more than 40 countries are expected to take part in the Asian championships which, beginning next year, will again be held every odd year.

76ers defeat Hornets by 21

PHILADELPHIA—Allen Iverson had 29 points on 11-of-20 shooting as the Philadelphia 76ers avenged an earlier loss to New Orleans with a 108-87 victory Monday that extended its home record to 8-0.

The Hornets won a 99-98 buzzer beater in New Orleans Nov. 19, the only loss for the 76ers in their last eight games.

Iverson played one of his best all-around games, making 7-of-9 free throws and dishing four assists. Several other spectacular passes went unconverted by his teammates.

Todd MacCulloch had 15 points, Keith Van Horn and Aaron McKie 14 apiece, and Eric Snow had 12 points and 10 assists for Philadelphia. The 76ers last won eight straight at home in 2000.

In Phoenix, Rookie Amare Stoudemire had his first NBA double-double with season-highs of 15 points and 13 rebounds as Phoenix beat Milwaukee, 86-81. *AP*

Jordan to risk knees

WASHINGTON — Frustrated by a three-game losing streak, Michael Jordan sounds ready to increase his playing time.

Jordan said Monday he isn't necessarily lobbying to start, but he said his minutes should no longer be limited by concerns over his knees, especially if it means keeping the Washington Wizards out of the playoffs.

"I'm not concerned about that right now," Jordan said when asked about the current plan to limit his minutes to save his knees. "I know they are. Doctors are supposed to be very conservative, especially with a guy who's about to turn 40. *AP*

Brown US coach

NEW YORK—Larry Brown of the Philadelphia 76ers will be the head coach of the 2004 U.S. Olympic men's basketball team, The Associated Press learned Monday. *AP*

An appeal to GMA

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

YES, at last, what I have been writing about for years has reached the halls of Congress.

Manila Rep. Harry Angping has filed Resolution No. 775 requesting President Macapagal-Arroyo to issue an executive order creating a committee that will identify not only a site (in Manila) for the 2005 Southeast Asian Games but also conduct a study for the construction of a new modern sports complex ideal for international events.

As far back as 1988, this corner had sought the need to replace the outmoded Rizal Memorial Sports Complex, which more often than not is flooded when it rains and waterless during the summer months. I mentioned then that in the 1950s, leading members of the defunct Philippine Amateur Athletic Federation (PAAF) headed by the late Antonio de las Alas, already started the move to relocate the dilapidated Rizal Sports Complex to a new healthier and pollution-free location somewhere in an area now occupied by the Quezon City Memorial Circle, requesting the help of then President Carlos Garcia. Unfortunately, the request was disapproved because, according to sources, Garcia was not properly briefed beforehand by members of the PAAF executive committee.

Several administrations and many decades later, the country still does not have a new and modern sports complex unlike its Asian neighbors. Because of this, we are appealing to President Macapagal to support the clamor to construct a modern sports complex (not only in Manila), but also in other places across the country. Though it is facing many problems, the government should find ways to source out the needed funds (for example, through soft loans from foreign lenders) and build that long overdue modern sports complex that will showcase not only the talents and skills of the Filipino athletes but leave a lasting legacy to the nation as well. This government should give priority to sports and not treat it as a poor relation.

SAMSUNG

Scratch & Win

SURE PRIZES, FOR ALL SAMSUNG MOBILE PHONE BUYERS!

10 winners
Samsung Camera Phone (V200)

5, 000 winners
Samsung Designer Jackets

10, 000 winners
P100 Worth Prepaid Tele-Karaoke Card*

PROMO MECHANICS:
1. Every purchase of any of the following Samsung Mobile Phone Models: R220; N500; N620; A200; A300; A400; *A500; *A800; T100; *T200; *T400; *T500; *S200 and *V200, packaged in the box, with the "Congratulations! You Won" sticker at any participating authorized outlets entitles the customer to join the Samsung Scratch & Win Promo (*models will be available on Dec. 2002.).
2. When the customer purchases any of the Samsung Mobile Phone Models mentioned above from November 22, 2002 to January 15, 2003, a scratch card may be found along with an application form inside the box.
3. The customer simply scratches off the bigger covered portion on the card to reveal the prize he/she may win. To claim the prize instantly, the winner must present the card to the attending sales representative.
4. MINOR PRIZES that can instantly be won: Samsung Designer Jackets & Prepaid Tele-Karaoke Cards worth P 100.00. These prizes may be claimed until March 16, 2003 only at the participating dealer where his/ her Samsung Mobile unit was purchased.
5. Should the customer win the MAJOR PRIZE of the Samsung Camera Phone (V200), he/ she will also find a form inside the box together with the application form. He/ she shall fill out the name, address & contact no. and surrender it to the dealer where his/her unit was purchased as proof of winning. The dealer will forward all these details to First Asia Mobile, Inc. The MAJOR PRIZE will be hand-delivered to the winner at his designated business/home address not later than the 16th of March 2003.
6. All winners must present a valid Identification Card with Photograph (driver's license, company ID; Passport; Voter's ID) to prove his/her identity before the prize will be given away.
7. Scratch cards are subject to validation by the authorized sales representative. Only winning cards with authenticated security code will be honored. Customer must not scratch the smaller covered portion marked "VOID IF SCRATCHED" below. Any scratch card that is crumpled, defaced, mutilated, torn, tampered with, forged, reproduced or altered in any way will not be honored.
8. Cellular Phone Prizes are not convertible to cash. First Asia Mobile, Inc. will shoulder the 20% tax for all prizes exceeding P 10,000.00
9. MAJOR PRIZES
Ten (10) winners - Samsung Camera Phone units (Model V200)
MINOR PRIZES
Five Thousand (5,000) winners - Samsung Designer Jackets
Ten Thousand (10,000) winners - Prepaid Tele-Karaoke Cards worth P 100.00
10. Promo period is from November 22, 2002 until January 15, 2003.
11. Prizes not claimed within 60 days from the end of the promo period, will be forfeited in favor of First Asia Mobile, Inc., prior to the approval of DTI.
12. All employees of Samsung Electronics Phils., Inc., First Asia Mobile, Inc., and their sister companies, suppliers, dealers, Masterminds-Asia Communications, Inc. and their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the promotion.

DISTRIBUTED BY:
First Asia Mobile Inc.
Unit 2207 Robinson's Equitable Tower ADB Ave., cor. Poveda St.
Ortigas Center, Pasig City, 1605
Tel.: (632) 687-5290 to 96 - Fax: (632) 687-0286

JOIN! VALID UNTIL JANUARY 15 2003
SAMSUNG DigitAll Grand Prix
PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO. [illegible] SERIES OF 2002

SAMSUNG DIGITall
everyone's invited™
PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO. 2287 SERIES OF 2002

Sports arms show today at Megamall

THE SECOND staging of the 2002 Defense & Sporting Arms Show starts today and ends Dec. 1 at the Megatrade Hall of SM Megamall B, Ortigas Center, Edsa, Mandaluyong City.

One of the show's major exhibitors is Jethro Trading through its owner, the former world speed shooting champion and recent Asian Games bronze medal winner Jethro Dionisio.

Organized by The Association of Firearms and Ammunition Dealers of the Philippines and TradeShow Internatinoal Inc., the biggest and most prestigious exposition of its kind in the Philippines today serves as a legitimate one-stop-shop for high-quality defense and sporting arms, ammunition and accessories for law enforcement, sport shooting, hunting and personal defense. The show will also tackle today's campaign against illegal firearms.

The Firearms and Explosive Department of the Philippine National Police supports the show which is sponsored by Total Security Systems, Inc., 105.1 Crossover, 103.5 K-lite, Wave 89.1, 89.9 Magic, 99.5 RT, Citylite 88.3, Powerhouse, Pharmaton and BMB Karaoke Superband.

Aguilar 4-cock derby favorite

FRESH from an impressive back-to-back championship Monday night, Mayor Nene Aguilar sets out as the top favorite in today's LA 939 4-Cock Derby to be hosted by Lito Alcantara at Roligion Mega Cockpit beginning at 7 p. m.

Aguilar's bets, Saint Joseph and Dec. 14-16 Bakbakan 7-Cock LPC, razed the opposition in last Monday's 4-cock derby by piling up eight consecutive victories in as many fights.

Co-champions were Emil Chua (Concrete Breaker), BM Bulalayaw (Boy Marso) and Philip Mena (Happy Birthday Dec. 6).

Among those seeing tonight are William, Co, lawyer Rudy Salud, Lito Orillaza, Eric dela Rosa, Gerry Ramos, Iking Araneta, Danny Ty, Joseph Chua, William Go and lawyer Romero Yu. Assisting the host is popular Ilamador Abo Centeno.

For other inquiries, please contact 833-2275 and 833-1638.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1990, Efren "Bata" Reyes beat Earl Strickland, 11-10, to win the Japan International 9-Ball Open. Also today in 1990, Jojo Cruz shot nines of 48 and 38 for a 79 to emerge junior champion of the month in the Alabang Jungolf tournament at the Alabang Country Club course.

HOMETOWN BET

Sinfuego heads FG cast in Iloilo

STA. BARBARA, Iloilo—Reunited with his big family here, Richard Sinfuego is out to make his first homecoming in three years truly memorable as he banners the field in the fourth leg of the First Gentleman's Professional Golf Circuit starting today at the fabled Iloilo Golf and Country Club here.

Sinfuego, who had spent much of his youth working as a ballpicker and caddie at the course built by Irish engineers in 1907, will be aiming for a second victory in the tour almost a month after topping the Canlubang stop via a marathon sudden-death playoff with Robert Pactolerin.

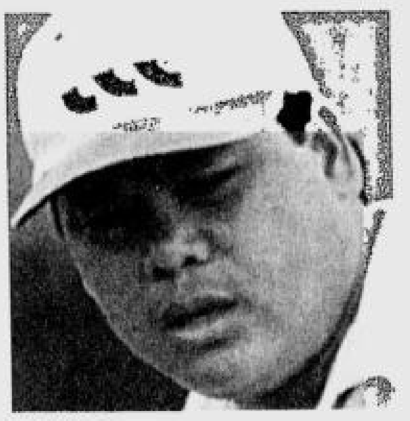
Sinfuego's father and his three brothers are still working as caddies at the course and the whole town's folk will be there to root for him in his showdown against the other top guns of the circuit presented by San Miguel Beer, a long-time supporter of local golf.

First Gentleman Mike Arroyo, whose foundation has taken the lead in giving back the local pros their livelihood, has already asked the organizing Federation of Golf Club Philippines Inc. to increase the total prize money from P500,000 to P600,000 starting with the Iloilo leg mainly because of the San Miguel support.

Arroyo's gesture stands to spread the bounty to a bigger number of entries as the second round cut in Iloilo, which kicks off the Visayan swing, will now involve 40 or more players from the 25 in the first three legs.

As it is, Arroyo, Comelec chair and PGAP commissioner Ben Abalos and Federation president Ogie Manalo already made sure that the southern legs will not become a financial burden for the pros.

More than half of the expected starting field of 70 took the comfortable WG&A Super Ferry journey to Iloilo, a free ride made possible by the leading sea transport. As part of its major involvement in the tour, WG&A is providing free transport to all pros in the six southern legs, including three in Mindanao.


SINFUEGO

John Hay ready for Fil-Am tilt

THE WORLD-CLASS golf course of Camp John Hay in Baguio City is all set for the 53rd edition of the Fil-Am Golf Invitational which reels off on Monday (Dec. 2).

Designed by Golden Bear of Jack Nicklaus, the golf course is the only one in the country that uses bent grass, the same grass used in the Augusta National in Augusta, home of the US Masters golf tournament.

"The bent grass is lightning fast. The ball still rolls even on an uphill putt. You really have to play the slope to score well," said Camp John Hay Golf Club chair Robert John Sobrepeña.

"As a matter of fact, 600 players representing teams here and abroad will be able to test our challenging and scenic golf course during our annual Fil-Am golfest," Sobrepeña added.

Nestled in Baguio's only remaining pine forest, Camp John Hay's 18-hole, par-69, 5,001-yard golf course embodies rolling hills, lakes, mature foliage and pine trees that capture the natural beauty and climate of the mountain region.

Accommodations for golfers in Camp John Hay will never be a problem. The newly built Camp John Hay Manor, a 189-hotel facility inside the former R&R by the Americans, is just five minutes away from the golf clubhouse.

SOBREPENA

SPORTSTV

Compiled by L. Manguiat

GOLF: Inside the PGA Tour at 11:30 a.m. (r - 8:30 p.m.) on Star Sports

LPGA State Farm Classic at 12:30 p.m. on ESPN

LPGA First Union Betsy King Classic at 5 p.m. on Star Sports

PGA Valero Texas Open at 10 p.m. on Star Sports

BASEBALL: Wednesday Night Baseball at 5 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. on ESPN

SBMA shootfest slated

ATTACK of the Clones, Demolition Man, Proof of Life, The Score, In the Line of Fire, Hard Target Behind Enemy Lines and Rush Hour.

The country's leading practical shooters must conquer these courses as they compete in the First SBMA Chairman's Cup shooting competition slated from Nov. 29 to Dec. 1 at the NavMag inside the Subid Bay Freeport.

Hosted by the Olongapo Practical Shooters Association headed by Johnson Choa, the three-day event has attracted leading ballclubs from all over the country.

Sanctioned by the Philippine Practical Shooting Association headed by Rep. Jackie Enrile, the tournament is a level III International Practical Shooting Association event.

The championship is being held in honor of SBMA chair Felicito ``Tong" Payumo. There are five divisions where more than 200 competitors will try to beat one another for trophies and medals. The events are: Open, Standard, Modified, Production and Revolver where regular shooters, range officers, senior, junior, ladies, and lawmen will see action.

Clubs from Baguio, Zambales, Bataan, Pampanga, Angeles and Manila clubs like Club 1911, Straight Shooters, Manila Rifle and Pistol Shooters Association, Armscor have already confirmed their participation.

Danny Yan is the match director with Choa and Jim Robertson as assistant match directors. Rey Ganaban is the range masters, with Kiko Alinea as his deputy.

Ronald Dy will handle the stats, while Robertson and Choa are the SBMA and national coordinator.

Among those helping the successful staging of the competions are Dixon Uy, James Choa, Sotero Gan, Totoy Ting, Rico Santiago, Lito Policarpio, Jordan Dizon, Ober Chua, Lino Mazon, Noli Rodriguez, Rennie Wong, Gider Malabute, Anthony Mercado, Romel Flores and all the members of the OPSA.

Those who want to join may inquire at: Subic Bay Aqua Sports (Scuba Shack), Waterfront Rd, SBMA, (047) 252-60-97; Tru Weight, 22 G. Araneta Ave, QC, (02) 712-2529/732-4263; Aim Precision-Kalayaan Avenue, QC, (02) 922-3897.

LS Greenhills paces Zobel

DE LA Salle Greenhills kept its commanding lead after its top players combined for a second-day total of 154 points to lead De La Salle-Zobel by 8 points going to the final day of the three-day, three-golf course competition at the Canlubang Golf and Country Club. Ian Intal scored 53 points, Kevin Lachica 51 and Merwin Mediana 50 for La Salle Greenhills in the four-to-play, three-to-count team competition. La Salle Greenhills scored 147 in the first day.

Computer Problem? We come to YOU!
PCHelp HOME & OFFICE COMPUTER SERVICE
Honest and Experienced Technicians
✓ DIAGNOSTICS
✓ UPGRADES
✓ NETWORKING
✓ NEW COMPUTER SET UP
✓ SOFTWARE PROBLEMS/ INSTALLATION
✓ PRINTER/MONITOR REPAIRS
✓ MAINTENANCE
LOW SERVICE RATES JOBS GUARANTEED
for home/office service, call:
727-2222

GA Y CALL FO ACTI

WOMEN POWER

PSC Commissioner Cynthia L. Carrion (3rd from right), convenor of the 1st Philippine Congress on Women and Sports, is flanked by (from left) Sen. Robert Jaworski, Maureen Chan of the Hong Kong Sports Development Board, Dr. Etsuko Ogasawara of the Asian Working Group on Women and Sports, Grace Young of the Singapore Women and Sport Working Foundation and Dr. Deborah Cubagee of the African Women and Sports Foundation during the closing rites of the four-day confab held in Tagaytay City.

Ateneo booters top NCR elims

ATENEO'S prodigious booters blanked La Salle Greenhills, 2-0, last Saturday to rule the NCR Coke Go-for-Goal under-16 football eliminations at the Xavier School field.

Cezario Kapunan struck in the 28th minute to give the Ateneans a 1-0 halftime lead. Regino Vergel de Dios finalized the count with a goal in the 69th.

Xavier took third by crushing Letran, 14-1, in the other match.

Jerick Chua knocked in five goals, while Martin Tiu and Rafael Ferrer added three each to power Xavier to the lopsided triumph.

Ateneo's Gerard Cancio III was named the tourney's most valuable player.

Active Open chess on tap

THE YOUNG turks of varsity play take centerstage as the 1st Checkmate Cyberspace Café Inter-Collegiate Active Open unreels at the Mezzanine (above Max's Restaurant) of One Joroma Place in Congressional Avenue, Quezon City on Saturday, Nov. 30, at 10 a.m.

Registration is now ongoing and will be limited to a first-come first-served basis. Only 12 teams made up of four players each and two alternates will be accommodated. Entry fee is P1,000 per squad. Aside from romping away with team honors, the top three crews will be awarded with elegant glass trophies and medals.

The format of the event is 5-Round with 25 minutes per player for each round.

Chito Jimenez and international arbiter Rolando Yutuc will don the cape of tournament director and chief arbiter, respectively.

An executive active chess event has also been slated for Saturday, Dec. 7. The one-day affair is open to all chess-loving professionals, corporate headmen and entrepreneurs who wish to enjoy the centuries-old game with their peers.

For more details, please visit the venue or contact Rose Jimenez at 922-0309 or Dennis Jimenez at (0917) 873-9324.

Shell-Yamaha team shines

SHELL-Yamaha is this year's undisputed motocross champion.

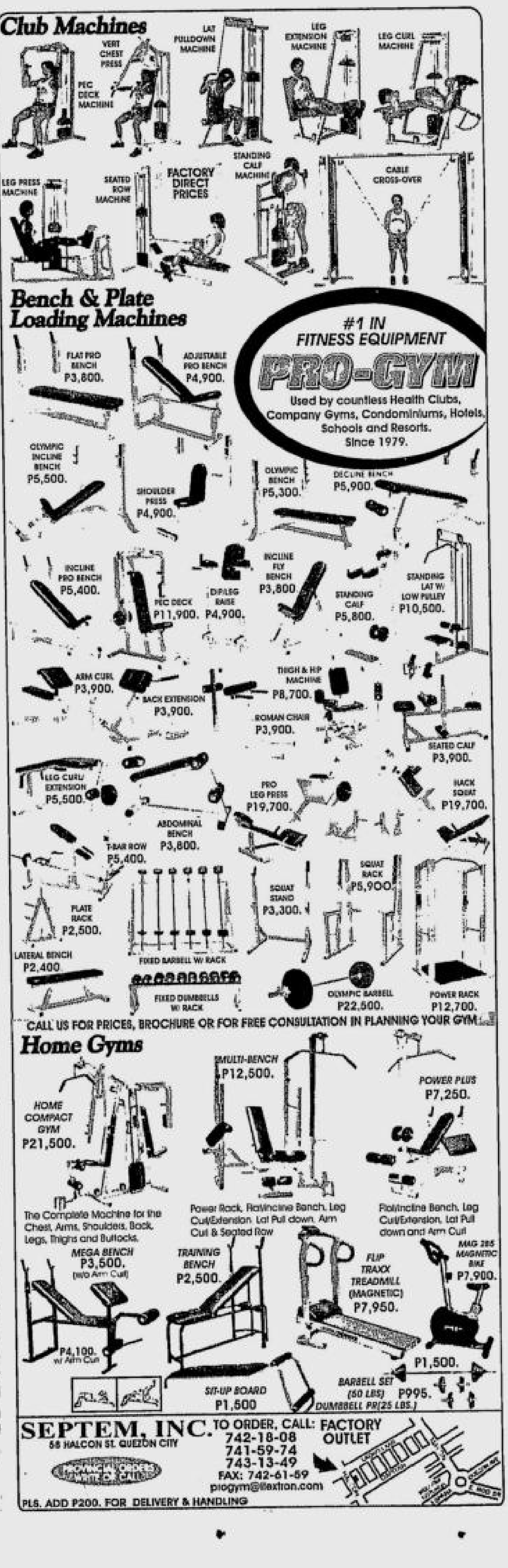
Led by Ernie Leongson and Jovie Saulog, Shell-Yamaha ruled six of 10 categories to emerge as the most dominant team in the WG&A Superferry-sponsored motocross series which ended at the Army Adventure Zone, Fort Bonifacio in Taguig recently.

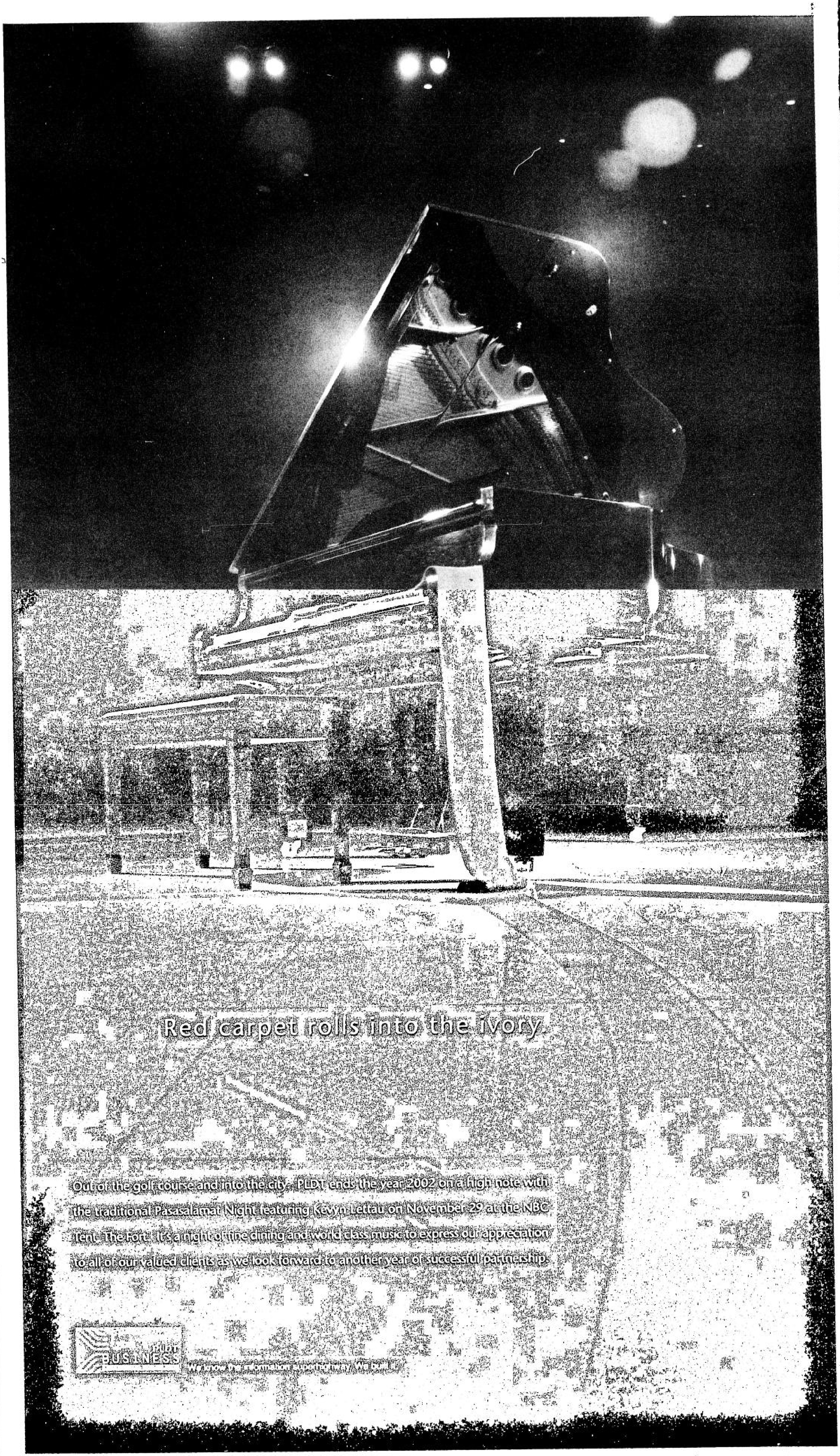
Leongson ruled the centerpiece pro open, Saulog topped the pro 125, Pepo Rubi dominated the expert and Sam Tamayo swept the power enduro, open production and beginner production to complete Shell-Yamaha's day of triumph.

"We're very happy. This is really a big year in motorsports for Shell-Yamaha," said Leongson, who emerged as this year's undisputed "Rider of the Year."

Shell-Yamaha also finished 1-2 in the expert category with Rubi and Joebanie Leyva dominating the races.

AUTOMATIC
CIRCA TIMEPIECE
TIMELINE OFFICIAL CIRCA SERVICE CENTER
TELS: (ESCOLTA) 242-4946 • (SM-MANILA) 522-6687 • (MAKATI) 843-3283 • (CUBAO) 911-1444 • (ROBINSONS-ORTIGAS) 687-3120 • (CEBU) (032) 255-8788


Club Machines
VERT CHEST PRESS
PEC DECK MACHINE
LAT PULLDOWN MACHINE
LEG EXTENSION MACHINE
LEG CURL MACHINE
LEG PRESS MACHINE
SEATED ROW MACHINE
FACTORY DIRECT PRICES
STANDING CALF MACHINE
CABLE CROSS-OVER
Bench & Plate Loading Machines
#1 IN FITNESS EQUIPMENT
PRO-GYM
Used by countless Health Clubs, Company Gyms, Condominiums, Hotels, Schools and Resorts.
Since 1979.
FLAT PRO BENCH P3,800.
ADJUSTABLE PRO BENCH P4,900.
OLYMPIC INCLINE BENCH P5,500.
SHOULDER PRESS P4,900.
OLYMPIC BENCH P5,300.
DECLINE BENCH P5,900.
INCLINE PRO BENCH P5,400.
PEC DECK P11,900.
DIP/LEG RAISE P4,900.
INCLINE FLY BENCH P3,800.
STANDING CALF P5,800.
STANDING LAT W/ LOW PULLEY P10,500.
ARM CURL P3,900.
BACK EXTENSION P3,900.
THIGH & HIP MACHINE P8,700.
ROMAN CHAIR P3,900.
SEATED CALF P3,900.
LEG CURL/ EXTENSION P5,500.
PRO LEG PRESS P19,700.
HACK SQUAT P19,700.
ABDOMINAL BENCH P3,800.
T-BAR ROW P5,400.
PLATE RACK P2,500.
SQUAT STAND P3,300.
SQUAT RACK P5,900.
LATERAL BENCH P2,400
FIXED BARBELL W/ RACK
FIXED DUMBELLS W/ RACK
OLYMPIC BARBELL P22,500.
POWER RACK P12,700.
CALL US FOR PRICES, BROCHURE OR FOR FREE CONSULTATION IN PLANNING YOUR GYM
Home Gyms
HOME COMPACT GYM P21,500.
The Complete Machine for the Chest, Arms, Shoulders, Back, Legs, Thighs and Buttocks.
MULTI-BENCH P12,500.
Power Rack, Flat/Incline Bench, Leg Curl/Extension, Lat Pull down, Arm Curl & Seated Row
POWER PLUS P7,250.
Flat/Incline Bench, Leg Curl/Extension, Lat Pull down and Arm Curl
MEGA BENCH P3,500. (w/o Arm Curl)
P4,100. w/ Arm Curl
TRAINING BENCH P2,500.
FLIP TRAXX TREADMILL (MAGNETIC) P7,950.
MAG 285 MAGNETIC BIKE P7,900.
SIT-UP BOARD P1,500
BARBELL SET (50 LBS) P1,500.
DUMBBELL PR(25 LBS.) P995.
SEPTEM, INC.
58 HALCON ST. QUEZON CITY
TO ORDER, CALL:
742-18-08
741-59-74
743-13-49
FAX: 742-61-59
progym@lextron.com
FACTORY OUTLET
PLS. ADD P200. FOR DELIVERY & HANDLING



Red carpet rolls into the ivory.

Out of the golf course and into the city. PLDT ends the year 2002 on a high note with the traditional Pasasalamat Night featuring Kevyn Lettau on November 29 at the NBC Tent, The Fort. It's a night of fine dining and world class music to express our appreciation to all of our valued clients as we look forward to another year of successful partnership.

PLDT BUSINESS

We know the information superhighway. We built it.

METRO
E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Louie C. Camino

Bomb scare on Taft

PASSENGERS of an air-conditioned bus panicked after a man, who left behind three packages, jumped off as the vehicle passed the NBI office on Taft. Ave. yesterday. It turned out Edwin Molina, a laborer, of 1001 Matimyas Street, Sampaloc, Manila was high on drugs. He was nabbed by NBI guards. His baggage proved negative for explosives. *Philip Tubeza*

Ambush a P50,000 job

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE ARRESTED suspect in the bloody ambush outside the Manila Cathedral confessed yesterday that he and his companion were promised P50,000 for the hit.

But suspect Usop M. Kamid, 22, of Cotabato City, said that it was his cousin and accomplice Abdul, alias Joel, who was first approached to do the hit job.

Detective Ed Paterno, of the Western Police District-homicide section, said Kamid claimed Abdul just "brought him along."

The suspect added that he did not know who hired Abdul.

Kamid said they were given P2,000 pocket money for their trip to Manila. They were supposed to receive the P50,000 when the job was finished.

Paterno said police are preparing a sketch of Abdul, who was able to escape after the ambush in front of the cathedral around noon on Monday.

The culprits shot former Maguindanao first district board member Jamal Macapeges, 38, and his cousins Arman, 45; and Felix Lidasan, 40.

Jamal survived the attack although he was shot in the face, near his nose. The bullet exited beside his right ear. Jamal also had a bullet wound in his right hip.

But while Jamal survived, Lidasan and Arman died. Lidasan was shot in his throat while Arman was hit in his abdomen.

Police believe politics was behind the killings.

Scion abducted

By Tina Santos

FOUR armed men abducted a scion of the owner of one of the country's biggest animal feeds distributors in Caloocan City early yesterday morning.

Danilo Bautista, 34, son of Don Mauro Arce, owner of Selecta Feeds on Susano Road, Barangay 170, Caloocan North, was forcefully taken by the group that also hit the victim's driver-helper, Joemel Esperga, 24, with a gun butt, police said.

City police chief Supt. Benjardi Mantele said Bautista and Esperga were on their way home on board the victim's blue Mitsubishi Adventure (WDZ 932) when the four heavily armed men, on board a red L-300 van without license plate, blocked their path at around 12:30 a.m. in Bagumbong Dulo, Barangay 171, several blocks away from the firm.

Esperga told police that the suspects suddenly grabbed Bautista, the company's operations manager and reportedly Arce's son by another woman, as one of the suspects hit him in the forehead with a gun butt.

The abductors shoved Bautista into the get-away vehicle and sped away toward Bustos, Bulacan, leaving the wounded Esperga, who was almost unconscious, inside Bautista's van.

Esperga said he could identify the suspects, who were armed with long firearms and handguns, although he said their faces were unfamiliar to him.

■ Quezon officials fed up with MMDA landfill offer /A27
■ Cebedo clan quits politics for own safety /A27

STOP HAIR LOSS. SAVE YOUR HAIR.
Call Svenson now! 842-1389

SHARK Rule the Road
PAJERO Package!!!
SHARK ROOF CADDY
-LOW MOUNTED FOR SAFER PARKING
-CUSTOM BRACKETS
-NO CROSSBAR
SHARK STAINLESS REAR BUMPER
-With Third Brake Lights
FREE! BUILT-IN BACK-UP SENSOR
*For Every Pajero Promo Package of:
-Roof Caddy
-Rear Bumper
Also Available for: XUV, Patrol, Adventure & Revo
Promo Until: DEC.15,2002 OR UNTIL SUPPLIES LAST
VALID AT SURESTEP 1013A EDSA, Veteran's Vill., Project 7, Quezon City
The No Holes Board ☎410-3067/65 · 372-3640

Cut The Heat Inside Your Car!
DASHIELD
Multi-layered dashboard cover with UV inhibitors
• 90% Heat Reduction on dashboard
• Available for most car and van models
1013 EDSA (near Veterans Vill. entrance), Quezon City
Tel. nos. 372-3640 • 372-2464 • 415-7837

WAZZZUP?

Cowboy Grill BIÑAN, LAGUNA	PHYRIGIAN STREETLIFE	BLAKDYAK NOV.28 ☎ (049)511.7268
Cowboy Grill	SERSIDE ICE KENDI	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎ 801.7644
Cowboy Grill	CROSSTOWN KNIGHTS / FAT 16	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎ 525.1474
Cowboy Grill	MOODZ HEARTBEAT	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎ 521.8143
Cowboy Grill NOVALICHES, QUEZON CITY	HIMIG PRYZM	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎ 936.9757
LIVE STATION	OLDIES BUT GOODIES	#44 WEST AVE., Q.C. ☎ 373. 5677
SOUND STAGE CAINTA	BLAKDYAK NINA & D'ESSENCE	CUT THIS AD FOR A FREE APPETIZER ☎ 682.9359/61
TIA MARIA'S JUPITER ST. MAKATI CITY	MP 3 MIND STUCK	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎ 890.4735
TIA MARIA'S REMEDIOS, MALATE	3RD DEGREE VERSE 2	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎ 522.0429

WEDNESDAY Nov. 27 2002 ☎ 412-6736

SMART
zed
HITLIST
LOGO BAIT
LOGO WAG
LOGO DUDE
LOGO DRAGON2
LOGO JESUS
LOGO KISSME
LOGO TWEET
LOGO SUNRISE
LOGO SWEETHEART
LOGO BUNNYLOVE
LOGO HEAVYHEART
LOGO KARIGANT
LOGO WHIPIT
LOGO DEEPWATER
LOGO RABIT
LOGO UNICORN
PIC HEYU
PIC HIYA
PIC STOP
PIC WZUP
PIC BUNNY1
PIC CHAINED
PIC KATSNIGHT
LOGO TWEET
288
Good Morning!!
Thanks!
LISTEN
Simply Amazing!
Let loose with these most requested downloads.

How to get a logo, picture message or ring tone:
Type in KEYWORD. Ex. LOGO TWEET, PIC BLACKDOG1 or TONE 3D
To send logo, tone or picture message, to another cell phone, type in <keyword> <cell phone number> and send to 288.
Ex. LOGO TWEET 09191234567, TONE 3D 09181234567 or PIC BLACKDOG1 09181234567
Send to 288.
Save upon receiving logo, picture message or ring tone.

Logos, picture messages & ringtones are supported by selected Nokia handsets. Also available to Talk 'N Text subscribers. P15.00 for every successful download.

To download all these from your SMART Super SIM, simply go to the SMART Menu, select SMART zed and then select My Favorites. Just click on the service you wish to download. It's so easy! For keywords of other SMART zed services, type in KEYS and send to 288. Questions? Comments? Concerns? Call the SMART Hotline at 888-1111, text us at 888 (P1.00 per message sent in excess of the FREE TEXT allocation), e-mail us at customercare@smart.com.ph, or visit the SMART Wireless Center nearest you.

Your Body Is A Wonderland	John Mayer	TONE URBODY
Hung In A Bad Place	Oasis	TONE HUNG
3-D	TLC	TONE 3D
Feeling The Same Way	Norah Jones	TONE FEELSAME
Nightingale	Norah Jones	TONE NITEGALE
Piano And I	Alicia Keys	TONE PIANO3
Lithium	Nirvana	TONE LITHIUM
Hold On	Ballard/Wilson/Phillips	TONE HOLDON
Hand In My Pocket	Alanis Morisette	TONE HANDPOCKET
Uninvited	Alanis Morisette	TONE UNINVITED
Asereje	Las Ketchup	TONE ASEREJE
Spiderman	Movie Theme	TONE SPIDERMAN
Misery	Pink	TONE MISERY
Uptown Girl	Billy Joel/West Life	TONE UPTOWN
Dog Barking	Zed	TONE DOGBARK
Lady Marmalade	Christina Aguilera	TONE MARMALADE
Build Me Up, Buttercup	Sound Alike	TONE BUTTERCUP
Bakit Papa	Sex Bomb	TONE BAKITPAPA
Just Like a Pill	Pink	TONE JUSTLIKE
Next In Line	After Image	TONE NXTINLINE

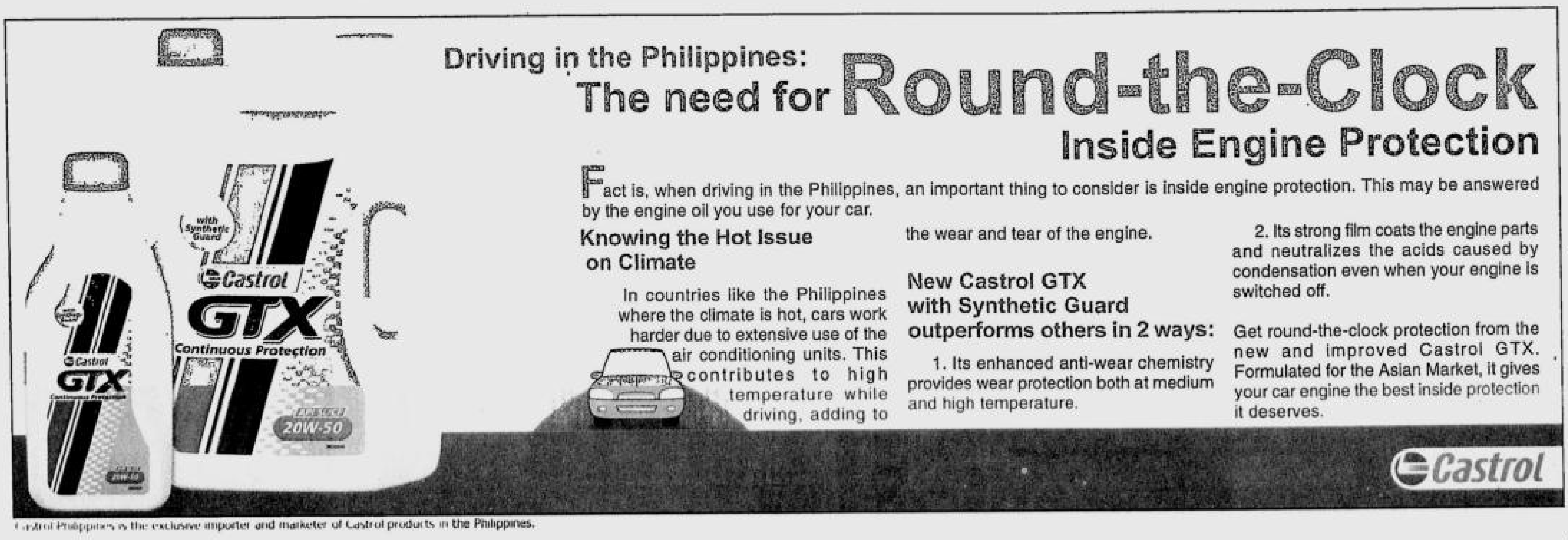
Sagittarius
To download your HOROSCOPE LOGOS, just send LOGO <zodiac sign> to 288, Example: LOGO SAGITTARIUS

To download your ANIME HOROSCOPE LOGOS, just send LOGO <cute + zodiac sign> to 288. Example: LOGO CUTESAGITTARIUS

How to download TEXTPRESSIONS:
Type in TE <space> followed by your text message, then send to 288. Ex: TE THANKS!
Your message will be sent back to you with the nearest graphical match.
You then have the option to forward it to your friends or save the message.

I'm Zeddy the Alien. I come in peace. Take me to your cell phone.
Get SMART zed Comics and follow my adventures. Just sign up once to get sightings of me everyday.
The adventures of Bianca the Brat and Lola the Witch are also available.
"Great looking planet. Must reduce ship speed and explore in detail."

A sure hit every week! POW!
Get the hottest logos or ring tones automatically delivered to your cell phone every week. For logos, type POWLOGO, for ring tones type POWTONE, and send to 288



Driving in the Philippines:
The need for Round-the-Clock Inside Engine Protection

Fact is, when driving in the Philippines, an important thing to consider is inside engine protection. This may be answered by the engine oil you use for your car.

Knowing the Hot Issue on Climate

In countries like the Philippines where the climate is hot, cars work harder due to extensive use of the air conditioning units. This contributes to high temperature while driving, adding to the wear and tear of the engine.

New Castrol GTX with Synthetic Guard outperforms others in 2 ways:

1. Its enhanced anti-wear chemistry provides wear protection both at medium and high temperature.

2. Its strong film coats the engine parts and neutralizes the acids caused by condensation even when your engine is switched off.

Get round-the-clock protection from the new and improved Castrol GTX. Formulated for the Asian Market, it gives your car engine the best inside protection it deserves.

Castrol

Castrol Philippines is the exclusive importer and marketer of Castrol products in the Philippines.

For sreening times, call 729-7777
Schedules are subject to change without prior notice.

AYALA CINEMAS NOW SHOWING

G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4	GB1 GREENBELT 1	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER
KASIPING HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS DIE ANOTHER DAY DIE ANOTHER DAY	DIE ANOTHER DAY *HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS DIE ANOTHER DAY 11:40, 5:10, 7:55, 10:40 4 BAHID CLOCKSTOPPERS DIE ANOTHER DAY 7 MASTER OF DISGUISE	STOLEN SUMMER (EXCLUSIVE) 11:55, 1:50, 3:45, 5:40, 7:35, 9:30 DIE ANOTHER DAY 10:30, 1:15, 4:00, 6:45, 9:30 REGINE VELASQUEZ - SONGBIRD SONGS NOV. 29-30 / DEC. 6-7, 13-14, 20-21, 27-28	DIE ANOTHER DAY 11:45, 2:35, 5:25, 8:15, 11:05 DIE ANOTHER DAY 12:20, 3:10, 6:00, 8:50, 11:40 MASTER OF DISGUISE 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30, 11:30 DIE ANOTHER DAY 10:35, 1:25, 4:15, 9:55 HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS	HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS MASTER OF DISGUISE CLOCKSTOPPERS

Reserve your seats by texting "SURESEATS G4 (or any Ayala Cinemas) and send to 2333. Or log on to www.sureseats.com.
*GSC: Guaranteed Seats Cinema

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING
EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DOLBY)	DIE ANOTHER DAY
2 (SDDS)	DIE ANOTHER DAY
3 (DTS)	DIE ANOTHER DAY
4 GOLD (DTS-ES)	HARRY POTTER
5 GOLD (DOLBY EX)	DIE ANOTHER DAY
6 GOLD (SDDS)	MASTER OF DISGUISE
7 GOLD (DOLBY EX)	HARRY POTTER
8	HARRY POTTER
9	KAILANGAN KITA
10	BAHID

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	RESERVE
2	RESERVE
3 (DTS)	RESERVE
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
6 (DTS)	RESERVE
Golden Pearl THX	RESERVE

Masagana CINEMA 1 2 & 3
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274

1	BAHID
2	DIE ANOTHER DAY
3	KASIPING

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph (Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986

1	BAHID
2	KASIPING
3	HARRY POTTER
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX)	DIE ANOTHER DAY
5	HIBLA

METROPOLIS star
www.clickthecity.com.ph (Alabang) tel 850.4285

1	HIBLA
2	KAILANGAN KITA
3	DIE ANOTHER DAY
4	BAHID
5	KASIPING
6	HARRY POTTER

M star
www.clickthecity.com.ph (Las Pinas) tel 873.5004

1	HARRY POTTER
2	KASIPING

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) tel 751.2010 to13

"DAY ANOTHER DAY'

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	GHOST SHIP
2	SANTA CLAUSE-2

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	HARRY POTTER
2	HIBLA
3	RESERVE
4	RESERVE

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (SDDS)	HIBLA
4	BAHID
5	MASTER OF DISGUISE
6	KASIPING
7 (DTS)	DIE ANOTHER DAY
8 (SDDS)	HARRY POTTER
9 (DOLBY)	DIE ANOTHER DAY

Gotesco Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	RESERVE

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 365.7928

1	KASIPING
2	BAHID
3	BAHID
4 (SDDS)	DIE ANOTHER DAY
5	KAILANGAN KITA
6 (DOLBY)	HARRY POTTER
7 (DTS)	DIE ANOTHER DAY
8	HIBLA
9	GISING NA SI ADAN

Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0082

1	HARRY POTTER
2 (SDDS)	BAHID
3 (DTS)	DIE ANOTHER DAY
4 (DOLBY)	DIE ANOTHER DAY
5	KASIPING

Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	DIE ANOTHER DAY
2	BAHID
3 (DTS)	HARRY POTTER
4	KASIPING
5 (SDDS)	DIE ANOTHER DAY

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	DIE ANOTHER DAY

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	HIBLA

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	BAHID
Lords	TUKAAN
Jennet	

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	DIE ANOTHER DAY
2	BAHID
3	HARRY POTTER

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	DIE ANOTHER DAY
2	KASIPING
3	RESERVE
4	BAHID
5	HARRY POTTER

FRC Cinema
(Talaba Bacoor Cavite)

1	RESERVE
2	RESERVE

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1	DIE ANOTHER DAY
2	KASIPING

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT Araneta MALL CINEPLEX 7
tel 911.3101 loc. 821.8242 8400

1	KAILANGAN KITA
2	BAHID
3 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	DIE ANOTHER DAY
4 (SDDS)	HARRY POTTER
5 (DTS)	DIE ANOTHER DAY
6	THE TRANSPORTER
7	HIBLA

FarmersPlaza CINEMAS
tel 911.3101 loc. 821.8242 8400

1	KASIPING
2	DIE ANOTHER DAY

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna) tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	KASIPING
2	BAHID
3 (DTS)	DIE ANOTHER DAY

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	HARRY POTTER
2 (DTS)	HIBLA
3 (DOLBY)	DIE ANOTHER DAY
4	BAHID

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	BAHID
2 (DOLBY)	DIE ANOTHER DAY
3 (DTS)	DIE ANOTHER DAY
4	HARRY POTTER

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	RESERVE FOR AMA
2	RESERVE FOR AMA
3 (DOLBY)	HARRY POTTER
4	RESERVE

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729

1	BAHID
2	CHANGING LANES
3 (DOLBY)	HARRY POTTER
4 (DTS)	DIE ANOTHER DAY

Magic Star Cinema
(Tarlac City) tel (045) 611.4305

1 (DOLBY)	DIE ANOTHER DAY
2 (DTS)	HARRY POTTER
3	BAHID

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	RESERVE
2	BRAZEN WOMAN
3 (DTS)	KASIPING
4	RESERVE

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	DIE ANOTHER DAY
2	BAHID
3 (DTS)	KASIPING
4	HARRY POTTER
5	TOUCH

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	DIE ANOTHER DAY
2	BAHID
3	KASIPING

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249.2558

1	DIE ANOTHER DAY
2	BAHID
3	KASIPING

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283

1	HARRY POTTER
2	KAILANGAN KITA
3 (DTS)	BAHID
4 (DOLBY)	DIE ANOTHER DAY

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	DIE ANOTHER DAY
2 (DTS)	RESERVE

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	SEX FILES
2	HARRY POTTER
3	HIBLA

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	BAHID
2	DIE ANOTHER DAY
3	HARRY POTTER
4	DIE ANOTHER DAY

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	DIE ANOTHER DAY
2	ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN
3 (DTS ES)	DIE ANOTHER DAY
4	HARRY POTTER

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY dts SDDS

FESTIVAL CINEMA
Level 4
Festival Supermall
Filinvest - Alabang
Tel. 85035-71 to 72

Experience the Magic of
Harry Potter AND THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS
NOW SHOWING

©2002 Warner Bros. Harry Potter Publishing Rights © J.K. Rowling

---

SM CINEMA
SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 833-9999
NOW SHOWING

SM CITY BACOOR
4173868

1	MASTER OF DISGUISE
2	KAILANGAN KITA
3	DIE ANOTHER DAY
4	HARRY POTTER 2
5	DIE ANOTHER DAY
6	BAHID
7	KASIPING
8	CLOCKSTOPPERS

SM CENTERPOINT
7149522 -7161416

1	HARRY POTTER 2
2	KASIPING
3	DIE ANOTHER DAY
4	CLOCKSTOPPERS
5	DIE ANOTHER DAY
6	HIBLA
7	DIE ANOTHER DAY
8	MASTER OF DISGUISE
9	BAHID
10	KAILANGAN KITA

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749

1	CLOCKSTOPPERS
2	MASTER OF DISGUISE
3	KAILANGAN KITA
4	DIE ANOTHER DAY
5	HARRY POTTER 2
6	DIE ANOTHER DAY
7	DIE ANOTHER DAY
8	BAHID
9	DIE ANOTHER DAY
10	HIBLA
11	GHOST SHIP
12	KASIPING

SM CITY MANILA
5239240

1	HARRY POTTER 2
2	CLOCKSTOPPERS
3	SWEET HOME ALABAMA
4	DIE ANOTHER DAY
5	MASTER OF DISGUISE
6	DIE ANOTHER DAY
7	KASIPING
8	HIBLA
9	HARRY POTTER 2
10	KAILANGAN KITA
11	DIE ANOTHER DAY
12	BAHID

SM MEGAMALL
6331901 - 6329401

1	DIE ANOTHER DAY
2	DIE ANOTHER DAY
3	HARRY POTTER 2
4	DIE ANOTHER DAY
5	CLOCKSTOPPERS
6	HARRY POTTER 2
7	KASIPING
8	KAILANGAN KITA
9	BAHID
10	DIE ANOTHER DAY
11	MASTER OF DISGUISE
12	HIBLA

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452

1	HARRY POTTER 2
2	DIE ANOTHER DAY
3	KASIPING
4	BAHID
5	KAILANGAN KITA
6	DIE ANOTHER DAY
7	HARRY POTTER 2
8	DIE ANOTHER DAY

SM SOUTHMALL
8066888

1	HARRY POTTER 2
2	MASTER OF DISGUISE
3	DIE ANOTHER DAY
4	DIE ANOTHER DAY
5	KAILANGAN KITA
6	HARRY POTTER 2
7	BAHID
8	DIE ANOTHER DAY
9	CLOCKSTOPPERS
10	KASIPING

SM CITY CEBU
2313976

1	DIE ANOTHER DAY
2	DIE ANOTHER DAY
3	SWEET HOME ALABAMA
4	HARRY POTTER 2
5	CLOCKSTOPPERS
6	KAILANGAN KITA
7	BAHID
8	DIE ANOTHER DAY

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422

1	GHOST SHIP
2	CLOSED
3	DIE ANOTHER DAY
4	BAHID
5	HARRY POTTER 2
6	DIE ANOTHER DAY
7	CLOSED
8	SWEET HOME ALABAMA

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015

1	DIE ANOTHER DAY
2	DIE ANOTHER DAY
3	HARRY POTTER 2
4	KAILANGAN KITA
5	CLOCKSTOPPERS
6	BAHID

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975

1	BAHID
2	DIE ANOTHER DAY
3	DIE ANOTHER DAY
4	HARRY POTTER 2

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

1	DIE ANOTHER DAY
2	BAHID
3	HARRY POTTER 2
4	KASIPING

SM CITY DAVAO
2976998

1	DIE ANOTHER DAY
2	SPIDER
3	BAHID
4	HARRY POTTER 2
5	SWEET HOME ALABAMA
6	DIE ANOTHER DAY

SM BICUTAN

1
2
3
4

WATCH OUT FOR THE OPENING ON NOVEMBER 29, 2002

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO

1	DIE ANOTHER DAY
2	TWO TIMER
3	HARRY POTTER 2
4	DIE ANOTHER DAY

THE PODIUM CINEMA

1	HARRY POTTER AND THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS 11:00 MF/2:00/5:05/8:00/ 10:40 LFS/11:00 LMF/1:40 END
2	DIE ANOTHER DAY 11:50 FS/12:20 MF/3:00/5:40/8:20/ 10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/1:10 END

LATE NIGHT SCREENING DURING FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS
Matinee : P100.00 • Screening until 5pm • Monday thru Friday
Regular Rate : P120.00 • After 5pm • Saturday • Sunday • Holidays (Reserved Seating)

Movies are subject to change without prior notice

MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS @ Robinsons Malls
call-a-movie 536-7812
NOW SHOWING

Galleria
632-9115-16
633-7641 loc. 279

THX	DIE ANOTHER DAY 10:50; 1:30; 4:10; 6:50; 9:30 LMF: 11:40 END
2	DIE ANOTHER DAY
3	BAHID
4	DIE ANOTHER DAY
	HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS
6	DIE ANOTHER DAY
7	MASTER OF DISGUISE
8	KAILANGAN KITA
9	KASIPING
10	CLOCKSTOPPERS

MATINEE PRICE: P80 THX cinema P65 (level cinemas) Mon.-Fri. / 10am-4pm (EXCEPT HOLIDAYS)

Ermita
536-7809-12

1	DIE ANOTHER DAY
2	DIE ANOTHER DAY
3	KASIPING
4	DIE ANOTHER DAY
5	PAHID
6	DIE ANOTHER DAY
	HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS

Metro East - Marcos hway
682-8193 / 8280

1	KASIPING
2	DIE ANOTHER DAY
3	DIE ANOTHER DAY
	HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS
5	KAILANGAN KITA
6	HIBLA
7	DIE ANOTHER DAY
8	BAHID

Novaliches
935-3229-30

1	DIE ANOTHER DAY
2	CLOCKSTOPPERS
3	BAHID
	HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS
5	DIE ANOTHER DAY
6	KAILANGAN KITA
7	KASIPING
8	HIBLA

Malabon
285-7671 / 7675

1	DIE ANOTHER DAY
2	KASIPING
3	BAHID
4	DIE ANOTHER DAY

Star Mills- San Fernando, Pamp.
875-1927
961-5318 / 5270

	HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS
2	DIE ANOTHER DAY
3	BAHID
4	CLOCKSTOPPERS
5	DIE ANOTHER DAY
6	DIE ANOTHER DAY

Imus
471-8188 / 875-3838

1	DIE ANOTHER DAY
2	DIE ANOTHER DAY
	HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS
4	DIE ANOTHER DAY
5	KASIPING
6	BAHID

Bacolod
441-0453 / 0459

1	DIE ANOTHER DAY
2	SWEET HOME ALABAMA
3	DIE ANOTHER DAY
	HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS
5	HIBLA
6	CLOCKSTOPPERS

Iloilo
336-8077-78

1	DIE ANOTHER DAY
	HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS
3	SWEET HOME ALABAMA
4	DIE ANOTHER DAY
5	BAHID
6	GHOST SHIP

email: [illegible]
http://www.[illegible].com
txt-a-movie: CTC<_>MOV<_>RMW+branch code

GALLERIA	ERMITA	METRO EAST	NOVALICHES
GALE	MLA	MEP	NOVA
IMUS	STARMILLS	BACOLOD	ILOILO
IMUS	STAR	BAC	ILO

[illegible] 2333 [illegible] 225

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

METROBRIEFS

Ex-con gets life for rape

EX-CONVICT Roberto Sata yesterday was sentenced to life imprisonment after Judge Jose Catral Mendoza found him guilty of raping and robbing a woman last year. Sata, 26, of UP Village, Quezon City, had been convicted of frustrated homicide and had just been released from prison when he committed the rape and robbery. Court records showed that on Sept. 19, 2001, Sata broke into the victim's apartment in Manggahan, Quezon City, poked a knife in her neck, dragged her into her room and raped her. The victim said Sata's eyes were red and he was muttering words she could not understand. After raping her, he took her jewelry worth P25,000 and fled. She immediately went to the police and had Sata arrested on the same day. During the trial, he denied the charges, claiming he could not have raped the woman because he was in Philcoa at that time. But Judge Mendoza said Sata had clearly forced himself on the victim, as shown by the physical injuries she sustained in the attack. *Agnes Donato*

Security guards arrested

SECURITY guards Rodel Brizuel, 32, and Conrado Sampang, 33, both of Cubao, Quezon City, were arrested after they kidnapped housemaid Marlyn Benlayo, 29, at around 7 a.m. Monday inside the Nepa Q-Mart on EDSA, Quezon City, police said. Using Benlayo's cellular phone, the two suspects called the victim's employer Leticia Alleger and asked for P10,000 in ransom, police said. Alleger and the suspects agreed to hold the payoff at the Jollibee branch in Cubao. Police arrested the suspects as Alleger handed over the ransom. *Alcuin Papa*

Cop killed in road accident

PO3 NELSON Jauay and Rolando Pintor, were killed while three other persons were injured in two separate accidents in Quezon City yesterday. Jauay, 35, of Barangay Silangan, Quezon City, was on his motorcycle with Rose Baltar, 17, and Charina Lalaguna, 23, when they were hit by the Toyota Tamaraw (PXH-999) of Jesus Arellano, 28, on Regalado Avenue, Greater Lagro, at around 6 a.m., police said. The impact threw Jauay off his bike, killing him instantly, while the women were caught between the two vehicles. The women are now being treated at the East Avenue Medical Center. Pintor, 24, of Galas, Quezon City, was driving a jeep when he lost control of the vehicle and hit a tree on the center island on Araneta Avenue at around 6 a.m. Pintor died on impact while his injured friend Stephen Fapica, 38, was taken to the UERM Hospital. *A. Papa*

MMDA LANDFILL

Quezon officials fed up; Montalban site offered

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
Nelson Flores and
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

AS QUEZON officials loudly protest the Metro Manila Development Authority's plan to set up a waste facility in their province, officials of Rodriguez town in Rizal are "practically begging" the MMDA to dump Metro Manila's trash at the Montalban Solid Waste Disposal Facility in Rizal.

The Quezon officials are now saying they are fed up with the "intransigence" of MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando for keeping alive the hope of setting up a waste facility in the province.

Last Monday, the Quezon Provincial Board adopted a resolution meant to remind Fernando that the board members have already decided against the MMDA project and that he should respect it.

In interviews, Fernando has insisted that he would appeal to Quezon officials to reconsider their decision of scrapping the dumpsite, despite the board resolution and the holding of mammoth rallies in the province to protest the MMDA proposal.

In a privilege speech, board member Dante Miguel Cadiz urged Fernando that "he should now hang up his gloves and surrender the fight."

Cadiz called on his colleagues to bring a copy of their final decision to the doorstep of Fernando. "(Fernando) should now respect our decision and the sentiments of the people of Quezon against his project," Cadiz said.

On Sunday, the Diocese of Lucena issued a strongly worded statement denouncing the MMDA plan to convert at least 2,000 hectares of prime agricultural lands in Tiaong and Candelaria towns into the "Waste Rail Transfer and Processing Project" that would accommodate 6,000 to 8,000 tons of garbage generated daily in Metro Manila.

According to the Diocese of Lucena, which includes Tiaong and Candelaria, "the issue of garbage is a matter of life and death."

In Rizal, Rodriguez town Mayor Pedro Cuerpo yesterday asked Fernando to stop looking for another dumpsite and instead help the local officials in developing the Montalban Solid Waste Disposal Facility.

Cuerpo said it is ironic that, prior to the construction of the MSWDF, Metro Manila mayors were practically begging him to open the dumpsite at the height of the garbage crisis two years ago.

Now, he said, the situation is exactly its opposite.

"It is I who am now practically begging them to dump their waste (in Rizal), Cuerpo said.

Cuerpo said the MSWDF is capable of handling Metro Manila's waste. He said the construction of a new dumpsite would just entail more expenses for the MMDA.

Cebedo clan quits politics for safety

By Christian V. Esguerra

"WE QUIT. We just leave everything to God."

The brother of slain Zambaonga town Vice Mayor Perfecto Cebedo yesterday threw in the towel in his family's violent, decade-old political battle with the influential Yap clan.

Prudencio Cebedo yesterday said no more Cebedo would run for public office following the vice mayor's assassination in Muntinlupa which was allegedly plotted by the Yaps.

"That's it," he told the INQUIRER. "We concede if only to keep our family safe. We leave politics to them."

Perfecto, vice mayor of Rizal town in Zamboanga del Norte, was the last-remaining Cebedo holding a government position, according to Prudencio.

His death at the hands of at least five alleged hired killers came 10 years after his brother, Victorio, was murdered by a professional hitman upon the orders of former Misamis Occidental town Mayor Rey Yap and his younger brother Roy. The Yap brothers are serving life terms at the New Bilibid Prisons.

Having dominated politics in the western Misamis Occidental towns of Balingao and Sapang Dalaga for more than four decades, the Yaps clashed with the Cebedos in the 1990s when they expanded their political clout in the nearby town of Rizal in Zamboanga del Norte.

Despite the long history of violence between the Yaps and the Cebedos, investigators still refused to summon for questioning members of the Yap family in connection with Perfecto's killing in Muntinlupa Sunday.

Guessing game

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

ITEM No. 1: How's the government faring in its campaign against jueteng?

For some idea of what's going on behind the scene, read this text message from a friend, a media person from the North:

"somebody went 2 my ofis and gave me an envelop wid 4thou fr a jueteng lord. pls return it, i told him."

P4,000 from a jueteng lord. If the media person bit, it goes without saying that the payola would come in regularly.

You did the right thing, the texter was told, you should be congratulated.

***

A succeeding text from the same source went thus:

"it was my co-correspondent hu made d attempt, how ironic & disgusting. told him iv bin ofered several times, ol turned down."

OK. All jueteng payola offers turned down.

Quite reassuring.

But the bigger question to ask is: How many correspondents or broadcasters in that particular jueteng area have the courage and integrity to turn down dirty money from gambling syndicates.

A guess: They are a rarity.

***

Item No. 2: Who's the Bureau of Corrections official whom Mon Tulfo had exposed in his column?

Mr. Tulfo had actually identified the suspect in his column last Friday.

But name was deleted because of an editorial policy.

However, a call from Lipa City, from where the suspect supposedly hailed, said it's open knowledge who the Tulfo target was.

He even reads the gospel in morning Sunday Mass at the Carmelite Chapel in Lipa City, our informant said.

He's also a protege of the embattled Justice Secretary Hernando Perez.

Practically everybody in Lipa knows who he is.

Will this suspect, said to smuggled drugs and liquor inside the national prisons, be also made to take a leave of absence to clear himself?

Of course, he must, concerned Lipenos cry, he owes it to the trusting nuns at Carmel.

JOVIE
SAULOG
JAO
ERNIE
LEONGSON
ADVANCE VSX
ADVANCE VSX
Behind every champion is everybody else.

Shell Advance congratulates its team, Jovie Saulog, Jolet Jao and Ernie Leongson for bagging this year's Pro 125 Champion, National Superbike Champion and Rider of the Year, respectively. Every win is also a victory for each Shell Advance user..

Kristine Valdez: Singing is her passion

VALDEZ. The singer previously rumored to be Rico J. Puno's girlfriend, will record an album in the US.

By Marinel R. Cruz

THERE'S talk that sultry singer Kristine Valdez was previously involved with a known performer who is old enough to be her father. The performer reportedly paved the way for her to become the singer that she is now.

Pressed for comment in a recent media conference in Quezon City, Kristine neither confirmed nor denied the rumor. Instead, she pleaded to reporters to "please let him be. He already has a family."

The mystery performer in Kristine's life is said to have been Rico J. Puno, with whom she performed with in many concerts here and abroad.

"Let me just tell you about my successful shows in the States instead," Kristine said.

She has been headlining concerts in the US, where she performs cuts from her international album. She was chosen by Italian record producer Christian De Walden to record an album in Los Angeles.

She wowed the crowd not only in the posh Bellagio Hotel in Las Vegas, but also in the Peppermill Hotel in Reno, Nevada, and the Florida Theater in Jacksonville, Florida.

She has teamed up with such veteran performers as Hajji Alejandro, Nanette Inventor, Randy Santiago, Eddie Marcelo, Mon David, Toti Fuentes and yes, Rico J. Puno.

On Dec. 2, Kristine will fly back to the US to do a show with Tin Arnaldo in Las Vegas. She will also perform in San Diego, California on Dec. 3 and 4, and at the Hilton Hotel in Freemont, San Francisco, on Dec. 6.

Kristine said Viva Records' big boss Vic del Rosario spotted her while "jamming" with a group of musicians in a hotel sometime in 1997 and immediately signed her up for a recording contract.

"I was singing Sharon Cuneta's 'Sana'y Wala Nang Wakas' when Boss Vic came in," Kristine shared. "He said it's his all-time favorite song."

Viva also paved the way for Kristine to do the opening acts for Michael Bolton, Tiffany and Indecent Obsession in their concerts at the Araneta Coliseum.

Her debut album, "Kristine: Until the End of Time," included songs that she wrote, like "Ikaw na Sana," "Until the End of Time" and "Someone Please Tell Me."

Kristine will promote her second album, "The Voice," when she gets back from her US trip.

"The next album will be very much different from my teenybopper debut album," Kristine said. "It will contain a mixture of pop and R&B tunes."

Kristine grew up in Sydney, Australia, listening to songs by Whitney Houston, Aretha Franklin and Ella Fitzgerald. She had no formal lessons in singing and performing.

Kristine used to be preoccupied with sports like swimming, tennis and track and field. But it was Whitney's hit, "The Greatest Love of All," which made her change her mind about singing.

"I fell in love with the song and sang it over and over, till my voice grew hoarse," she recalled. "It's not easy to sing that one. I surprised a lot of people the first time they heard me sing the song."

"I consider singing then as an activity done only in the shower. Now, it has really become my passion."

'Debate' marks 4th anniversary

"DEBATE with Mare at Pare," the country's longest running debate-format show, marks its fourth year with a big show in store for viewers tomorrow night, Thursday, on GMA 7.

Four years after the program debuted on TV, "Debate" continues to churn out issues that had become the favorite topics of conversation in offices or even national papers.

"Debate" pioneered '"televoting," where viewers may express their opinions on the subject matter at hand by "voting-in" via phone.

On its fourth year, "Debate" elevates televoting to a grander scale with the entry of nationwide "televoting" via "Debatext," "1-908-Debate" and INQ7.

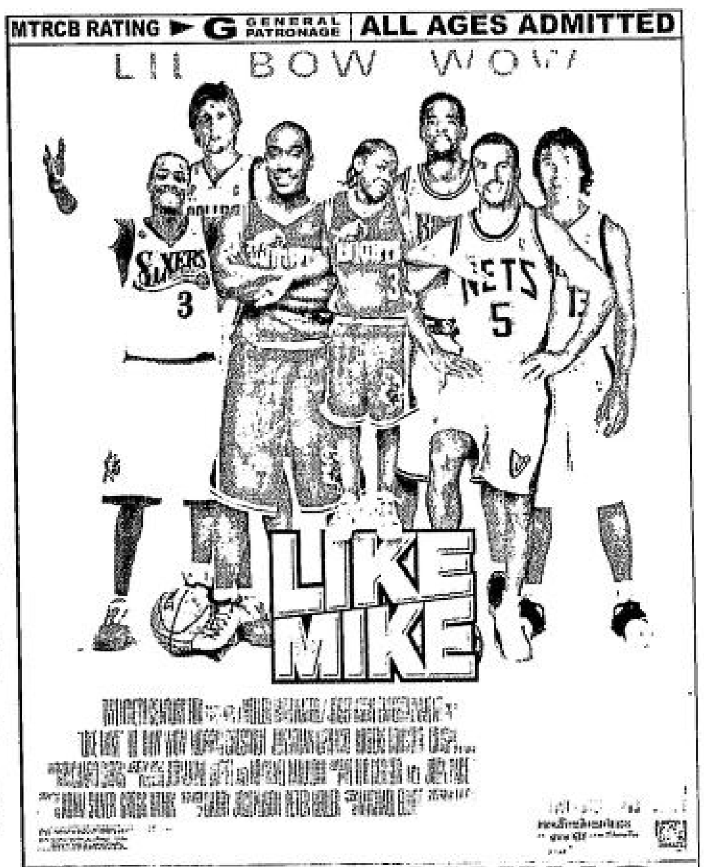
Hosted by Winnie Monsod and Oscar Orbos, "Debate with Mare at Pare" is a four-time PMPC Star Awards winner for best public affairs show.

"DEBATE" HOSTS. Winnie Monsod and Oscar Orbos.

GRAND OPENING TODAY!
IN OVER 150 THEATERS NATIONWIDE
MTRCB RATING ➤ PG 13 | Children below 13 years old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.

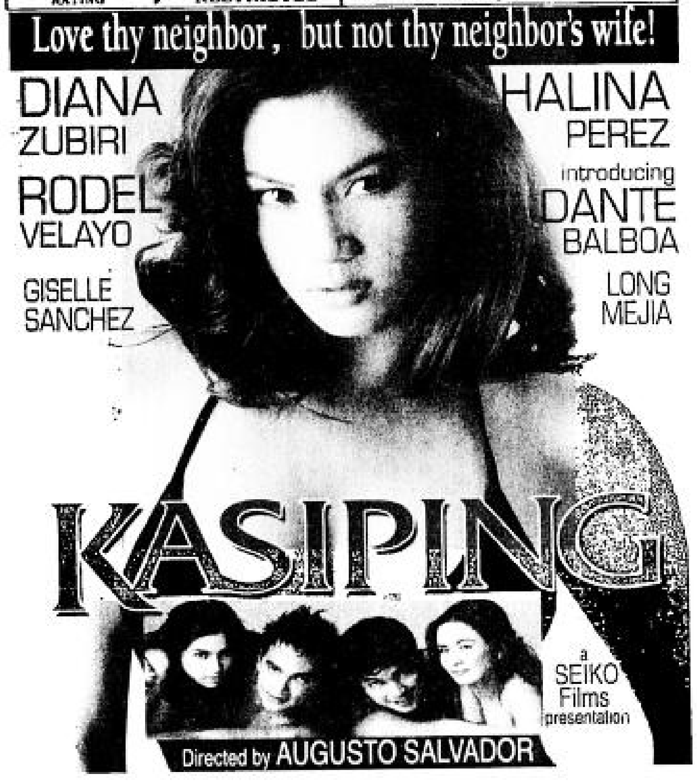
ALBERT R. BROCCOLI'S EON PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS PIERCE BROSNAN AS IAN FLEMING'S JAMES BOND 007
PIERCE BROSNAN
DIE ANOTHER DAY
007

MTRCB RATING ➤ G GENERAL PATRONAGE | ALL AGES ADMITTED


LIL BOW WOW
76ERS
3
NETS
5
LIKE MIKE

NOW SHOWING

OPENS TODAY!
DIANA DIDN'T BARE IT ALL ON EDSA
BUT IN "KASIPING," SHE DOES!
MTRCB RATING ➤ R RESTRICTED | Strictly for ADULTS
No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.

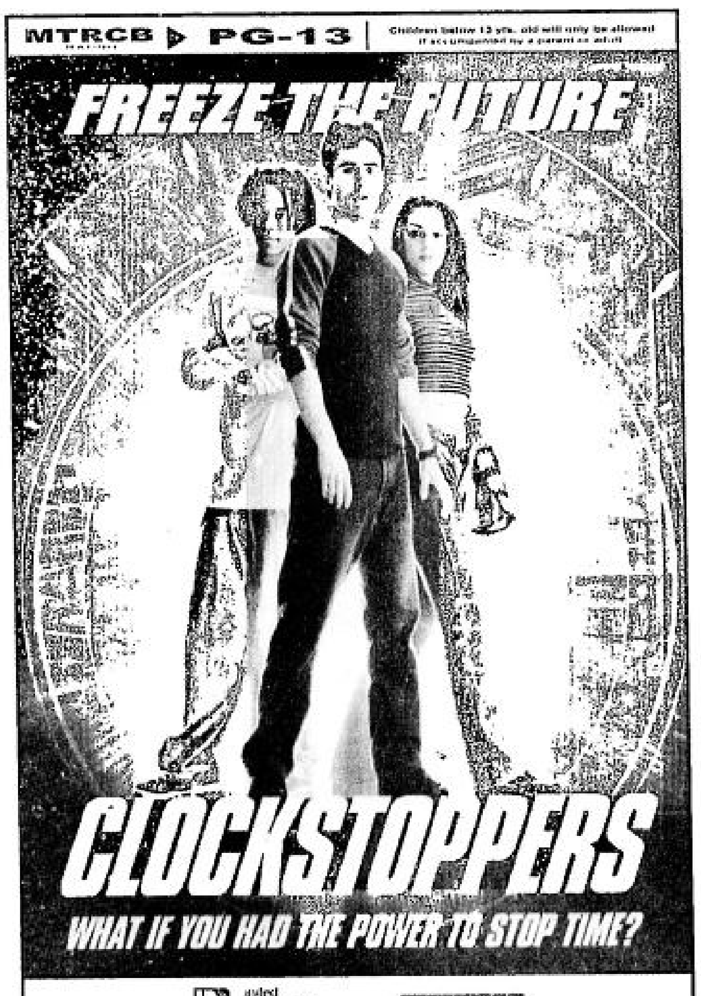

Love thy neighbor, but not thy neighbor's wife!
DIANA ZUBIRI
RODEL VELAYO
GISELLE SANCHEZ
HALINA PEREZ
introducing
DANTE BALBOA
LONG MEJIA
KASIPING
a SEIKO Films presentation
Directed by AUGUSTO SALVADOR

—THE—
PODIUM
CINEMA
18 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City
Tel : 638 9781 - 85 • 633 8976

1	HARRY POTTER AND THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS	11:00 MF/2:00/5:05/8:00/ 10:40 LFS/11:00 LMF/1:40 END
2	DIE ANOTHER DAY	11:50 FS/12:20 MF/3:00/5:40/8:20/ 10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/1:10 END

LATE NIGHT SCREENING DURING FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS
Matinee : P100.00 - Screening until 5pm • Monday thru Friday
Regular Rate: P120.00 - After 5pm • Saturday • Sunday • Holidays (Reserved Seating)

MTRCB ➤ PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult


FREEZE THE FUTURE
CLOCKSTOPPERS
WHAT IF YOU HAD THE POWER TO STOP TIME?

united international pictures

NOW SHOWING

MTRCB RATING ➤ R RESTRICTED | Strictly for ADULTS
No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.

ISANG KAKAIBANG KWENTO.
ISANG NAG-IINIT NA DRAMA.
ISANG TAGUMPAY NA PELIKULA.
Si Maui Taylor bilang CLARA
WIN NOKIA 3350s WEEKLY & P25,000 CASH TEXT HIBLA TO 224
Si Ricky Davao bilang ROMAN
Si Antonio Aquitania bilang LANDO
Si Rica Peralejo bilang ISABEL
Hibla ng kanilang mga buhay, at hinabing mga relasyon.
Magbubuhol. Magkakalas.
hibla
www.hibla.net
pelikula ni Yam Laranas
VIVA

NOW SHOWING

POWER PLANT
CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS GP 11:40,2:50,6:00,9:10	DIE ANOTHER DAY P13 12:40,3:20, 6:00,8:40	DIE ANOTHER DAY P13 1:30,4:10, 6:50,9:30
HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS GP 12:40,3:50,7:00,10:10	MASTER OF DISGUISE GP 12:40,2:30,4:20, 6:10,8:00,9:50	DIE ANOTHER DAY P13 11:40,2:20,5:00, 7:40,10:20

MATINEE P80.00 - FREE SEATING - SCREENINGS BEFORE 5 PM - MON. TO FRI.

THEATRE MALL
GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX
NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 1	DIE ANOTHER DAY 10:50, 1:35, 4:20, 7:05, 9:50 P13	CINEMA 2	DIE ANOTHER DAY 11:50, 2:35, 5:20, 8:05, 10:50 P13

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA • 7224496

MUSIC MUSEUM
NOV 29-30, 2002 "THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES" 9:00 PM
FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL : 721-6726 OR 721-0635

BATTLE WITH EVIL. Bong Revilla Jr. fights with Nancy Castiglione as the Queen Mummy.

Bong's latest film spends millions for special effects

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

THE PRODUCTION budget of the **Bong Revilla Jr.** action-adventure starrer for the Metro Manila Film Festival, "Ang Agimat (Anting-Anting ni Lolo)," soared to P35 million due to the special effects which serve as the highlights of the film.

Bong discloses nearly half of the film's budget was spent on special effects alone, which total a running time of 10 minutes.

"This is not an ordinary action film," Bong says. "We want to show that Filipinos can also make a film like this."

"Ang Agimat" boasts of computer-generated images (CGIs) for the transformation of the characters and a lot of three-dimensional effects, a la "Matrix," according to Bong.

CASTIGLIONE. As the "Evil Queen."

The action-adventure flick also uses surround sound.

"These days, you cannot. shortchange the viewers," Bong maintains. "You have to show something different that's why we capitalized on the special effects.

"Several production houses in Makati helped us produce quality special effects for this movie."

It's a big advantage for Bong that his family's newly revived Imus Productions bankrolled his latest starrer. Hence, he didn't have to scrimp on the budget to produce the kind of effects he wanted to show on the big screen.

"I won't deny it, mas naaalagaan ako if my film project is with Imus Productions," says Bong. "The whole family works with me so we could come out with a really good film."

"Ang Agimat" reunites Bong with his son **Jolo** and also stars Bong's dad, Sen. **Ramon Revilla Sr.**, in a special guest role.

The script is written by **Peque Gallaga**, who is an expert in fantasy-adventure offerings. **Ogie Salvador** directs, while **Rico**

BONG'S/ A31

CATCH THE LAST SHOPPING HURRAH!
bazaar for l.i.f.e.
leukemic indigents fund endowment
METROPOLITAN CLUB
[Estrella St. near Rockwell]
7-8 DECEMBER 2002
9AM-8PM
PRODUCT PROFILE:
HOUSE WARE • FURNITURE • ANTIQUES • BAGS • BOOKS MAGAZINES • CERAMICS • STONEWARE • GARMENTS & LINEN • MEN'S CLOTHING • WOMEN'S CLOTHING CHILDREN'S CLOTHING • CROCHETED & EMBROIDERY ITEMS • HOLIDAY DÉCOR • HOME DÉCOR • JEWELRY LEATHER GOODS • PAPER CRAFTS & PRODUCTS • PERFUMERY SHOES • TOYS • WOODCRAFT WOVEN PRODUCTS • DELICACIES CAKES • PASTRIES • BEVERAGES SERVICES • AND SO MUCH MORE...
UCPB ATM MOBILE FOR YOUR CASH CONVENIENCE
MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED
GMA
YGC YUCHENGCO GROUP OF COMPANIES
INQUIRER
POST
fitph.com
92.3
In cooperation with:
• Christmas Décor Producers & Exporters Assn. of the Phils.
• Chamber of Furniture Industries of the Phils. (CFIP)
• Foreign Buyers Assn. of the Phils. (FOBAP)
• Product Dev't & Design Center of the Phils. (PDDCP)
• Phil. Retailers Assn. (PRA)
For the benefit of:
For information, pls. call CUT UNLIMITED, INC.:
(632) 687.7523 / 687.0654 / 687.2955 / 687.0604 (telefax)
email: cut@pacific.net.ph

MTRCB ▶ PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.
30 FT
HIGH
60
TONS
OF
PRESSURE
FEEL
THE
CRUSH
BLUE CRUSH
FEEL THE CRUSH
12.04.02

JOEY @ 92.3 Rhythms FM METRO MANILA
Feel the Sunlight...
Kevyn Lettau
Live in Manila
NBC Tent,
Bonifacio Global City
11.28.02
Tickets at Php1,200 / Php923
Available at all
National Bookstore
Ticketworld outlets
Tel. no. 8915610 or at
8821-NBC(622)
AS PRESENTED BY
LONE STAR LIGHT BEER
SUNSILK Silky Black
Dove
SUSTAGEN PREMIUM
Philippine Airlines
OFFICIAL AIRLINE
MANDARIN ORIENTAL MANILA
OFFICIAL RESIDENCE
Ford
OFFICIAL VEHICLE

Early Oscar bets

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

THIS year, the Filipino movie industry is fielding **Gil Portes'** "Mga Munting Tinig" as the country's bet in the Best Foreign Film category of the US Academy Awards. What other films will it be competing with?

It's too early to see the detailed lay of the land, but three movies have been announced. Let's see how our bet fares against—

Italy's entry, "Pinocchio," by **Roberto Benigni,** whose "Life Is Beautiful" copped the foreign-film Oscar in 1999, plus other awards.

Director Benigni plays the wooden Puppet in 'Pinocchio," while his wife, **Nicoletta Braschi,** is cast as the blue-haired fairy.

On its first weekend, "Pinocchio" broke the Italian box-office record.

Meanwhile, Spain's candidate is **Fernando Leon's** "Los Lunes Al Sol (Mondays In The Sun)," a comedy about unemployed people. Leon's film was chosen over other finalists that included **Jose Luis Garci's** "Story of A Kiss" and **Pedro Almodovar's** "Talk To Her."

"Mondays In the Sun" is already a prizewinner: it topped the San Sebastian International Film Festival last September. The film stars **Javier Bardem,** who was nominated in 2001 for a Best Actor Oscar for his performance in "Before Night Falls."

Finally, Mexico is fielding "El Crimen del Padre Amaro (The Crime of Padre Amaro)", a film about a priest who seduces a teenager. Church officials in Mexico have called for a boycott of the controversial movie, but it has set a box-office record for a Mexican-made film.

These three "eventful" movies, along with our "Mga Munting Tinig," suggest that this year's competition for Best Foreign Film will be particulary heated.

On Feb. 11, the five finalists in this category will be announced. Our hunch is that, for the first time, a Philippine film will be in the list because "Mga Munting Tinig" strikes us as an "Oscar-friendly" movie.

Movies on TV

ON THE Cinemax channel: Wednesday, Nov. 27, 8 a.m., "Young Sherlock Holmes." 11:15 a.m., "Millenium Man." Thursday, Nov. 8 at 6:30 a.m., "Steal This Movie." 3:30 a.m., "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation."

Friday, Nov. 29, at 4 p.m., "Biloxi Blues." 7:30 p.m., "Gossip." 9 p.m., "The Dead Pool." Saturday, Nov. 30 at 7:30 a.m., "Bowfinger." 7 p.m., "All the Pretty Horses."

All humans are related

A GROUNDBREAKING scientific project is underway, with scientists collecting genetic material from celebrities around the world.

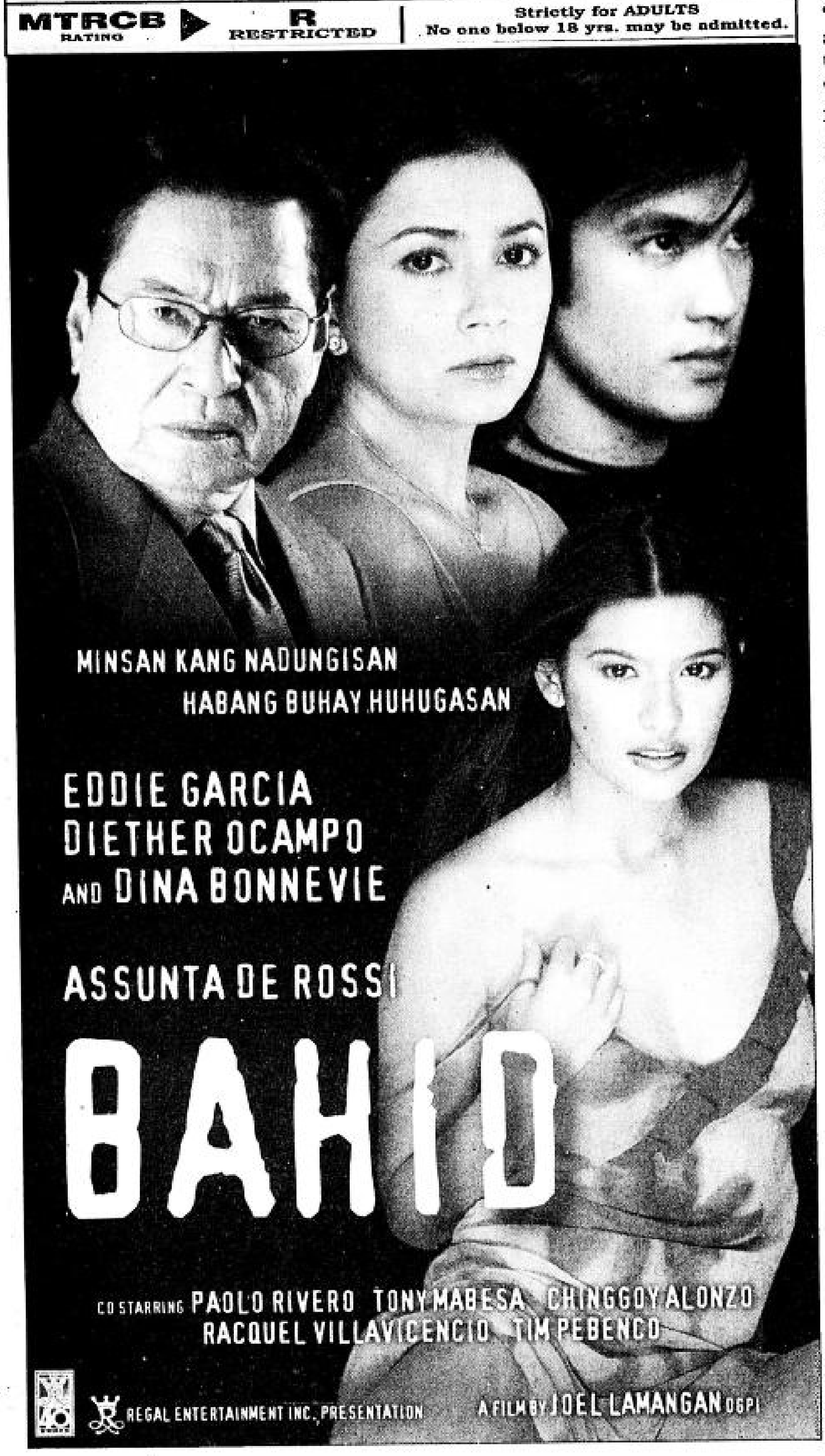
It aims to prove that all human beings are related to one another in a single brotherhood of man. Its results show that old-fashioned concepts of race are not only socially divisive, but also scientifically inaccurate.

This is the subject of the two-hour documentary, "The Journey of Man," premiering at 9 p.m., on Sunday, Dec. 15 on the National Geographic Channel.

The program is presented by geneticist Dr. **Spencer Wells,** who for 10 years has been attempting to construct a human family tree. In order to do this, he has taken thousands of blood samples and cheek swabs all over the world to unlock clues in the Y-chromosome of male DNA, and piece together a virtual map of migration.

According to Wells' findings, all humans originated from Africa and took different paths to get to where they are today. How they got where they are is written on everyone's DNA.

GRAND OPENING TODAY!
MTRCB RATING ▶ R RESTRICTED | Strictly for ADULTS No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.



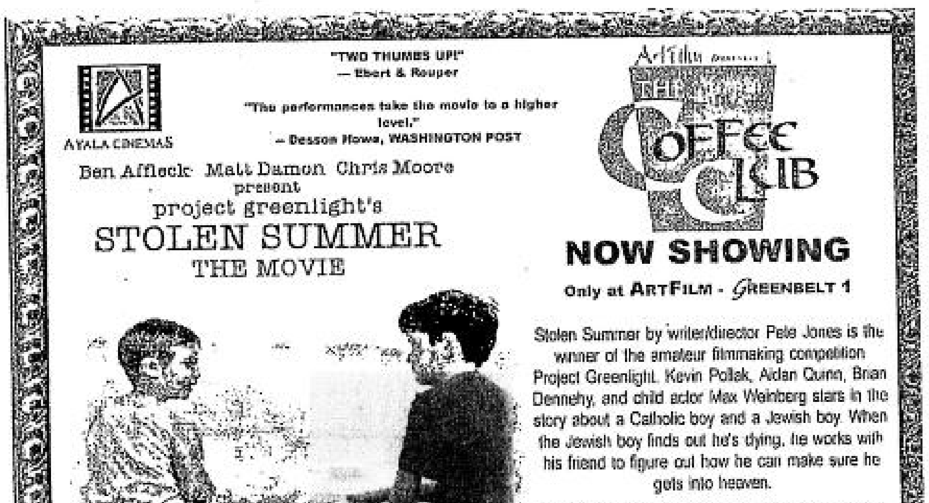
MINSAN KANG NADUNGISAN
HABANG BUHAY HUHUGASAN
EDDIE GARCIA
DIETHER OCAMPO
AND DINA BONNEVIE
ASSUNTA DE ROSSI
BAHID
CO STARRING PAOLO RIVERO TONY MABESA CHINGGOY ALONZO
RACQUEL VILLAVICENCIO TIM PEBENCO
REGAL ENTERTAINMENT INC. PRESENTATION
A FILM BY JOEL LAMANGAN DGPI

OPENS TODAY at all
AYALA CINEMAS

AYALA CINEMAS
20th CENTURY FOX
PIERCE BROSNAN
007
DIE ANOTHER DAY

GREENBELT 1
Cinema 2 - 10:30am; 1:15pm; 4:00; 6:45; 9:30
GREENBELT 3
Cinema 1(THX-GSC)-11:45am; 2:35pm;5:25;8:15;11:05
Cinema 2(THX-GSC)-12:20 pm; 3:10; 6:00; 8:50; 11:40
Cinema 4(GSC)- 10:35 am; 1:25 pm; 4:15; 9:55
ALABANG TOWN CENTER
Cinema 1(THX-GSC) - 12:30 pm;3:00; 5:30; 8:00;10:30
Cinema 2 - 12:00 nn; 2:30 pm; 5:00; 7:30; 10:00
Cinema 5 - 11:30 am; 2:00 pm; 4:30; 7:00; 9:30
GLORIETTA 1 (formerly QUAD)
Cinema 3 - 12:15 pm; 3:00; 5:45; 8:30
Cinema 4 - 11:30 am; 2:15 pm; 5:00; 7:45; 10:30
GLORIETTA 4
Cinema 1 - 11:00 am; 1:45 pm, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00
Cinema 3 (GSC/THX)- 11:40 am; 5:10; 7:55;10:40
Cinema 6 - 12:20 pm, 3:05, 5:50, 8:35, 11:20
Reserve your seats by texting "SURESEATS GB3"
(or any Ayala Cinemas) and send to 2333.
Or log on to www.sureseats.com
MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13
Special Thanks to:
Nestlé KitKat PHILIPS

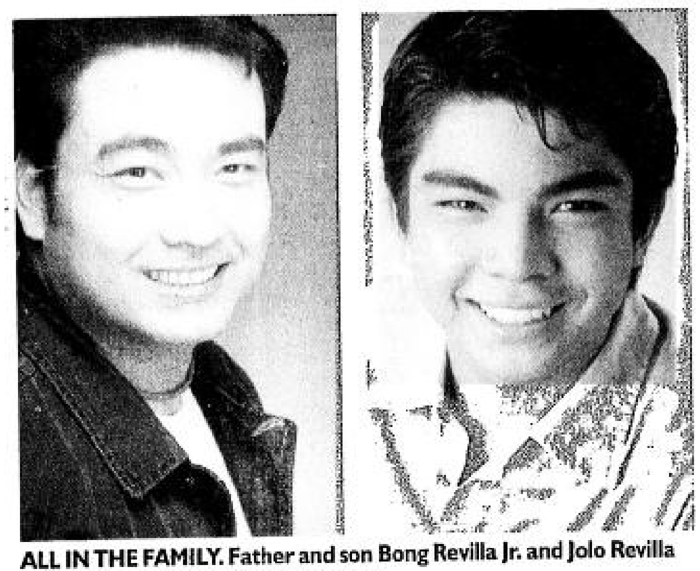
OPENS DECEMBER 4
ALLAN K
JEFFREY QUIZON
and WENDELL RAMOS
The SexBomb GIRLS
BAKIT PAPA?
introducing RICHARD GUTIERREZ
CHYNNA ORTALEZA
with the special participation of DINDIN LLARENA
JANE OINEZA
ANGELICA FERRER
regalfilms.com
a REGAL ENTERTAINMENT presentation
Written & Directed by URO Q. DELA CRUZ



AYALA CINEMAS
ArtFilm
THE COFFEE CLUB
NOKIA
INQUIRER

"TWO THUMBS UP!"
— Ebert & Rouper
"The performances take the movie to a higher level."
— Desson Howe, WASHINGTON POST
Ben Affleck Matt Damon Chris Moore present
project greenlight's
STOLEN SUMMER
THE MOVIE
NOW SHOWING
Only at ARTFILM - GREENBELT 1
Stolen Summer by writer/director Pete Jones is the winner of the amateur filmmaking competition Project Greenlight. Kevin Pollak, Aidan Quinn, Brian Dennehy, and child actor Max Weinberg stars in the story about a Catholic boy and a Jewish boy. When the Jewish boy finds out he's dying, he works with his friend to figure out how he can make sure he gets into heaven.
MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13 (PG-13)
SKYFILMS

50 luxurious Ferco seats, State-of-the-art Dolby EX sound format,
Tastefully modern cocktail and theater area.
The country's one and only private cinema. Now it can be'yours.
mycinema
GREENBELT 3
NOW AVAILABLE FOR BOOKING,
CALL 752-78-62 or 757-38-60 to 63.
GREENBELT A new experience in dining and entertainment amidst the green.
Ayala Malls. Because you deserve more!
AYALA CENTER



ALL IN THE FAMILY. Father and son Bong Revilla Jr. and Jolo Revilla III reunite onscreen in "Ang Agimat."

Bong's latest . . .

From page A29

Gutierrez is the creative consultant.

Bong, however, points out "Ang Agimat" is not a sequel to "Pepeng Agimat," his earlier starrer with Jolo which also became an entry to the 1999 Metro Manila Film Festival.

In "Ang Agimat," the senior Revilla plays the ermitanyo who gives power to a talisman owned by Jolo. The kid transforms into a superhuman being and becomes his dad, who is capable of fighting evil creatures.

Unlike his other films which paired him with a female lead, Bong has no love interest in "Ang Agimat."

"That's why I have no love scenes," he says. "We expect the film to draw young viewers."

The *agimat* was first introduced to moviegoers by Bong's dad, Senator Revilla, in the early '70s when he started the megahit action-drama, "Pepeng Agimat." The elder Revilla went on to do several other action starrers where he played different characters gifted with the *agimat*.

"It's like handing down the *agimat* from generation to generation," says Bong, who himself has done characters onscreen endowed with the powerful agimat. "My dad first entrusted the *agimat* to me. Now it's my turn to give the *agimat* to my son."

"Ang Agimat" marks the first time that Bong, his dad and his son are seen together in one movie. In the past, Bong and his dad have done films together, foremost of which was "Dugong Buhay," which marked Bong's debut as an adult actor.

"Now it's my turn to act as 'godfather' to my son's entry to the action-drama field."

"Ang Agimat" also headlines a bevy of stars who include **Mylene Dizon, Carlos Morales, Shaina Magdayao, Nancy Castiglione, Jimmy Fabregas** and child actor **Goyong**.

Interesting role

ONLY in her second film project, Nancy Castiglione attests her role in "Ang Agimat" is an interesting one for her.

"I've never done anything like it," says Nancy, who made her film debut in the **Piolo Pascual-Joyce Jimenez** starrer, "I Think I'm in Love."

In "Ang Agimat," Nancy plays the Evil Queen, a mummified body fed with human blood and hearts by the Queen Manananggal (portrayed by Mylene Dizon), who loves to terrorize the village.

Nancy gets to fight with Bong in a scene filled with special effects.

Composer dies

I RECEIVED a text message from violinist **John Lesaca**, who informed me that **Alice Doria Gamilla**, the composer of "A Million Thanks To You," popularized by **Pilita Corrales**, died last Sunday. The wake is at Loyola Memorial Chapels in Guadalupe, Makati City.

Araneta Center

ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7	
Ali 1	KAILANGAN KITA
Ali 2	BAHID
Ali 3	DIE ANOTHER DAY
Ali 4	HARRY POTTER 2
Ali 5	DIE ANOTHER DAY
Ali 6	TRANSPORTER
Ali 7	HIBLA
FARMERS PLAZA CINEMAS	
Farmers 1	KASIPING
Farmers 2	DIE ANOTHER DAY
ARANETA COLISEUM	
DEC. 1	PBA GAMES
DEC. 4	ANAK LAUNCH
DEC. 9 & 11	NCA DERBY
ELEPHANT WORLD	
NOV. 27	10 AM / 3 PM
NOV. 28	10 AM / 2 PM / 5 PM
NOV. 29	10 AM / 3 PM

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO / BIRTHDAY GIRL
ODEON	DIE ANOTHER DAY
ODEON-2	BIGLANG LIKO / TALAHIB AT ROSAS
ROBEN	KASIPING
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	FREAK / BOURNE IDENTITY
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET-2	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
QUEZON-1	KASIPING
REMAR	DIE ANOTHER DAY
REMAR-2	KASIPING
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	HIBLA
B	GISING NA SI ADAN
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	THE TRANSPORTER
CINEMA-2	HARRY POTTER 2
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	BAHID
CINEMA-2	KASIPING
CINEMA-3	KAILANGAN KITA
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	DIE ANOTHER DAY
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	HARRY POTTER
CINEMA-6	BIYAHERA
CINEMA-7	BRAZEN WOMAN
CINEMA-8	CLOCK STOPPERS
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	DIE ANOTHER DAY
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	DIE ANOTHER DAY
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	DIE ANOTHER DAY
CINEMA-12	HIBLA
CINEMA-14	HARRY POTTER
CINEMA-15	HARRY POTTER
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
CINEMA 1	DIE ANOTHER DAY
CINEMA 2	BAHID
CINEMA 3	HARRY POTTER
CINEMA 4	CHANGING LINES
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

Bond at his best

From page A32

the good old elements of the Bond formula, director Lee Tamahori ("Once Were Warriors," "Mulholland Falls") and writers Neal Purvis and Robert Wade (the two also collaborated on "The World Is Not Enough") show how much better a Bond film can be from all the typical popcorn-munching action adventure films of our time.

Bond's latest globe-trotting mission starts in North Korea where the expected, spectacular opening sequence has him (in quick succession) surfing tsunami-like waves, foiling a diamonds-for-arms trade, and engaging a corrupt army and their young despot in a lively, fast-paced hovercraft chase cum shootout across landmine country.

Reinvention

One expects him to walk away from it all with his usual sardonic quip, and he almost does, but the filmmakers obviously have more in mind for Bond's 21st century reinvention than a hipper musical score.

In perhaps only the second real attempt at character development, the first one was when Bond got married and then his wife got killed, but I can't remember in which film—Bond here is captured and held in a North Korean prison for more than a year before being released in a prisoner swap. His ordeal inside the prison is niftily integrated into the time-honored opening credit sequence where the film's theme song is also played. It's a Madonna pop tune by the way, as untraditional as the beatings our hero endures (complete with scorpion attacks, freezing water tortures, electrocutions, etc.).

When Bond is hauled out to face a firing squad, he looks more like the American Taliban than her majesty's finest. Gone is his swagger and witticism. He's a broken man to whom execution would be relief. If one didn't know any better, and if this film had another title, one would actually think that the filmmakers are introducing a new actor to replace Pierce Brosnan in the lead role.

"Die Another Day" reminds you why every man (and some women) would want to be James Bond. Who wouldn't want to go on one adventure after another, saving the world, defeating the most villainous villains, playing with the coolest gadgets and cars, and of course, romancing gorgeously unreal women?

But the film also reminds you that being Bond is not just about doing those, sipping dry Martinis and wearing nice tuxedoes. Perish the thought! One could actually get hurt being 007, and much worse, vilified!

After Bond's North Korean nightmare, he finds that he's still a prisoner and an outcast. Stripped of his "double O" status and thought of as a traitor by his M16 colleagues, he has to operate outside the loop for the first time in his career.

Unfamiliar

This groping in the unfamiliar is the strongest part of the film's narrative. It reveals more about Bond than the all the crazy stunts he's ever gone through and all the smart-alecky one-liners he's ever said.

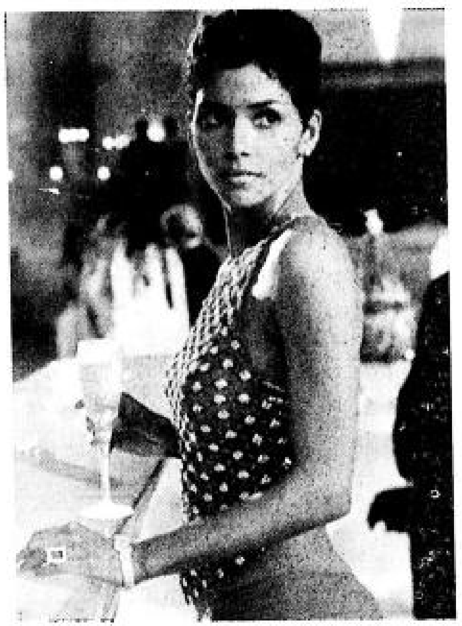
For once, there's something more at stake than the already monotonous fate-of-the-world cliché, something more personal. We see a darker, edgier Bond, in certain moments actually seething and utterly uncool and insecure. I personally like this Bond more than his usually savvy, imperturbable and nonchalant self. I like him on the edge, a rebel with a cause. For me, this is Bond at his best.

But like I said, "Die Another Day" also has the recognizable elements of "Bond formula." Standing at a high point of the series, and using the experience of their predecessors, it seems the filmmakers took everything that worked in past Bond films, reworked them into the plot and upped the ante to pack in more of the Bond spectacle and less of the silliness.

It is a wildly imaginative, terrifically exciting, elaborately scientific, lavishly filmed against elegant backgrounds and amazingly sexy film—and the superlatives are well intended.

Stunt for stunt, action set piece for action set piece, "Die Another Day" is double the relentlessness of earlier films.

Brosnan always had the sleek self-assurance and the gift with deadpan double entendres needed to play Bond, but in this latest Bond caper, Brosnan has something more. He gathers an air of steely toughness and concealed thuggish-ness, reminding everyone that Bond is also a British assassin, not just a suave spy.



BOND GIRL. Oscar winner Halle Berry.

Oscar winner

The film also features two Bond girls who can actually act, the Oscar winner Halle Berry (for "Monster's Ball") and the captivating newcomer Rosamund Pike. And both of them play the toughest and most independent women to cross Bond's path. They certainly have more to do in the film than follow Brosnan around like faithful lap dogs (more welcome evolution for the series).

Toby Stephens (the son of the eminent Maggie Smith a.k.a. Prof. McGonagall in "Harry Potter") plays the sneering megalomaniac (is there any other?) Gustav Graves, who's not the most sinister villain to stand against Bond. But Stephens performance is topnotch. He treads the line between subtlety and overacting, showing different aspects of Graves' shifting personality.

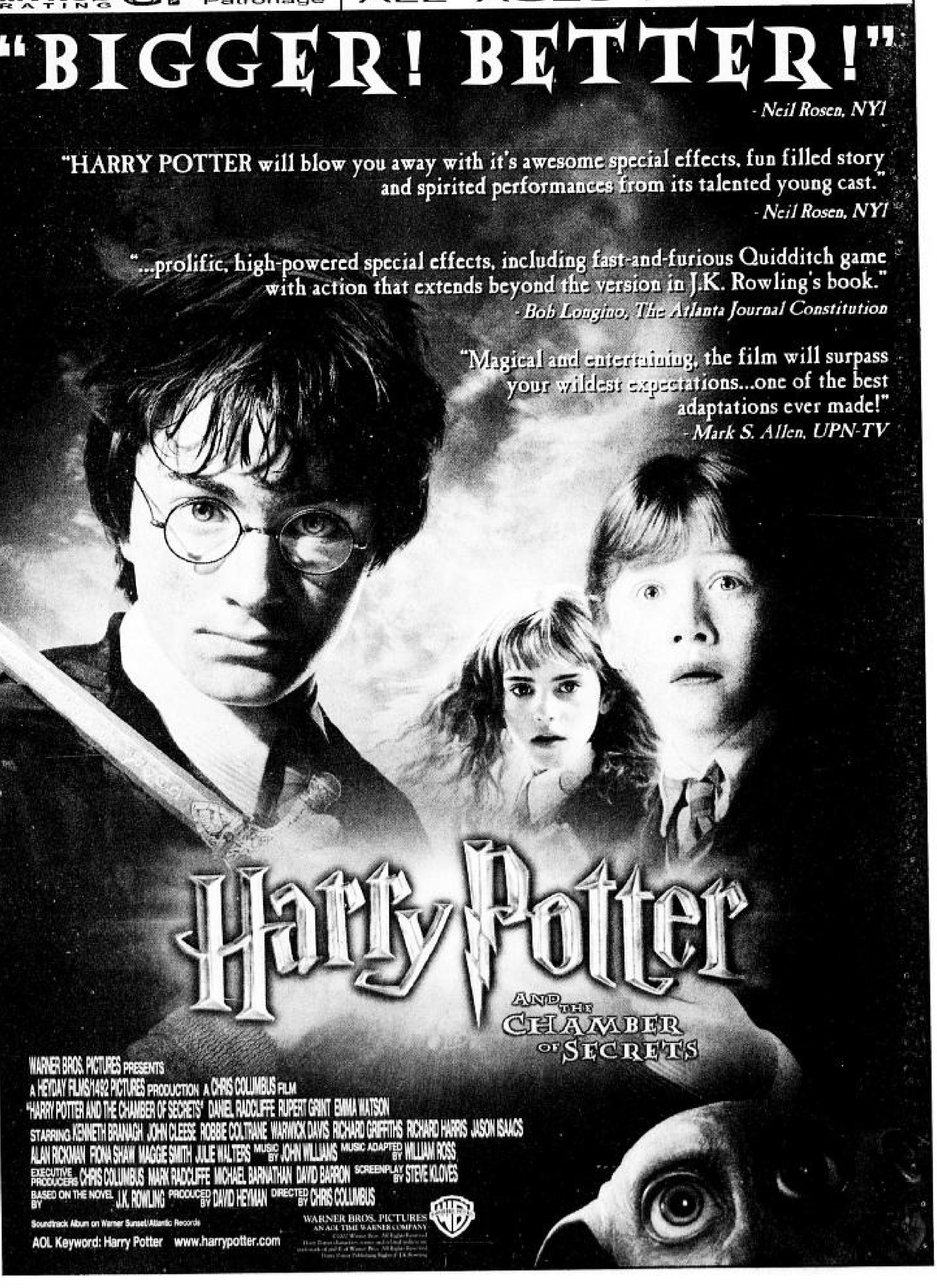
In due time, "Die Another Day" will probably rank among the James Bond series' best entries. It's a good film by any standards, one that rises to the ever-increasing challenges of action films.

NOW SHOWING ! ! !

THE BIGGEST OPENING WEEKEND FOR THE YEAR !!!

MORE THAN *100 MILLION NATIONWIDE* IN JUST 9 DAYS & STILL COUNTING !

MTRCB RATING GP General Patronage | ALL AGES ADMITTED



"BIGGER! BETTER!"
- *Neil Rosen, NY1*

"HARRY POTTER will blow you away with it's awesome special effects, fun filled story and spirited performances from its talented young cast."
- *Neil Rosen, NY1*

"...prolific, high-powered special effects, including fast-and-furious Quidditch game with action that extends beyond the version in J.K. Rowling's book."
- *Bob Longino, The Atlanta Journal Constitution*

"Magical and entertaining, the film will surpass your wildest expectations...one of the best adaptations ever made!"
- *Mark S. Allen, UPN-TV*

Harry Potter AND THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS

WARNER BROS. PICTURES PRESENTS
A HEYDAY FILMS/1492 PICTURES PRODUCTION A CHRIS COLUMBUS FILM
"HARRY POTTER AND THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS" DANIEL RADCLIFFE RUPERT GRINT EMMA WATSON
STARRING KENNETH BRANAGH JOHN CLEESE ROBBIE COLTRANE WARWICK DAVIS RICHARD GRIFFITHS RICHARD HARRIS JASON ISAACS
ALAN RICKMAN FIONA SHAW MAGGIE SMITH JULIE WALTERS MUSIC BY JOHN WILLIAMS MUSIC ADAPTED BY WILLIAM ROSS
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS CHRIS COLUMBUS MARK RADCLIFFE MICHAEL BARNATHAN DAVID BARRON SCREENPLAY BY STEVE KLOVES
BASED ON THE NOVEL BY J.K. ROWLING PRODUCED BY DAVID HEYMAN DIRECTED BY CHRIS COLUMBUS

Soundtrack Album on Warner Sunset/Atlantic Records

AOL Keyword: Harry Potter www.harrypotter.com

WARNER BROS. PICTURES
AN AOL TIME WARNER COMPANY

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph
ENTERTAINMENT
Editor Louie C. Camino

Meet & Greet
DIANA ZUBIRI
HALINA PEREZ
RODEL VELAYO
DANTE BALBOA
KASIPING
SM Tutuban, 11:30 am
SM Manila, 12:30 pm
SM Centerpoint, 2:30 pm
SM North Edsa, 3:30 pm
SM Megamall, 4:30 pm
Nov 27 at the Cinema Lobby
SM CINEMA
Schedule subject to change without prior notice

'DIE ANOTHER DAY'

Bond at his best

By Ruben M. Cruz Jr.
Contributor

REVIEW

"Nobody does it better. Makes me feel sad for the rest. Nobody does it half as good as you. Baby, you're the best."

SO GOES the first few lines of a Carly Simon song, the theme of the 1977 James Bond film, "The Spy Who Loved Me," which starred Roger Moore.

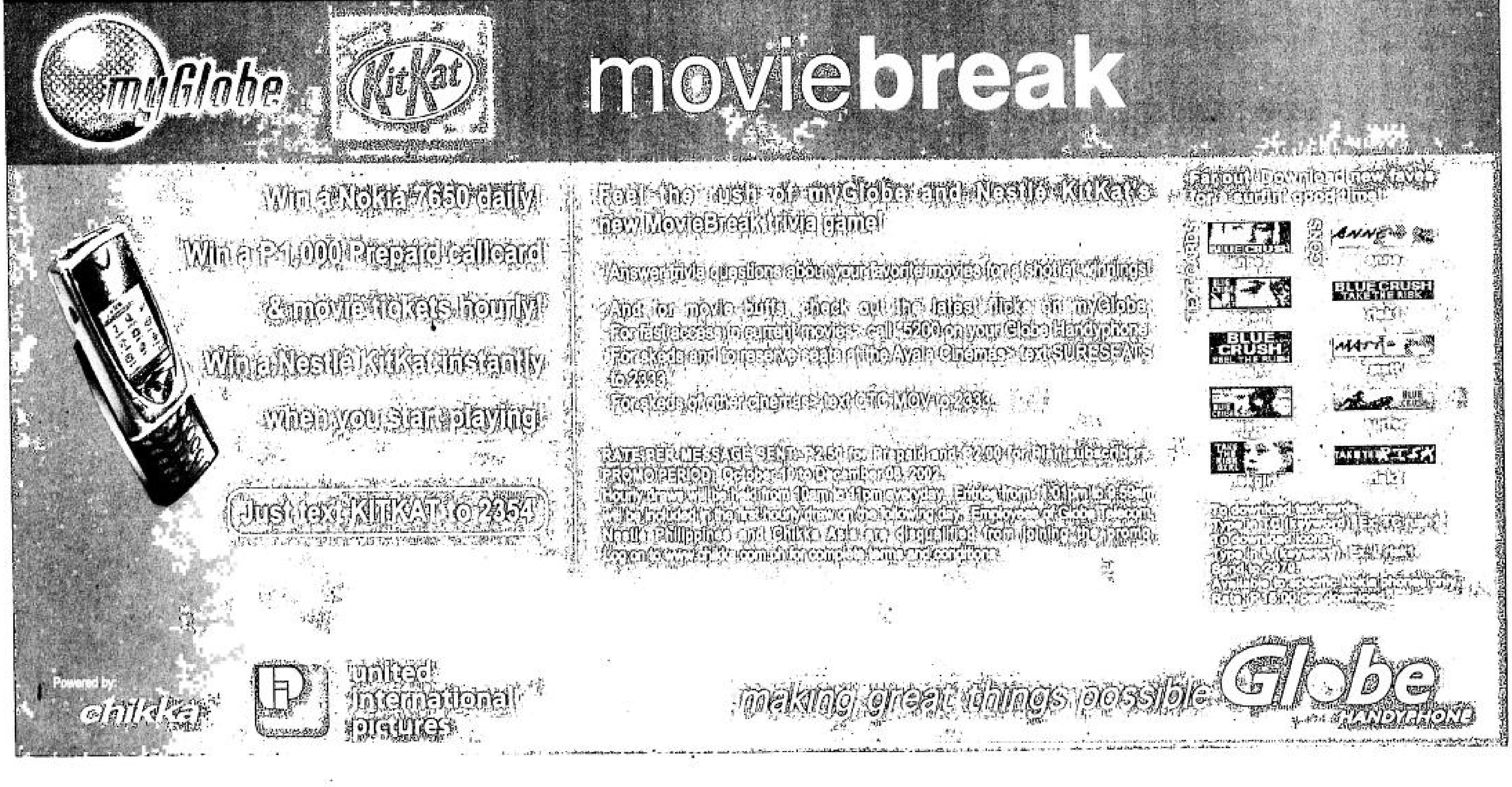
And indeed, 40 years and 20 films after Ian Fleming's story about the British superspy was first featured on the big screen (with "Dr. No"), James Bond still seems intent on proving that he's the best and most enduring among filmdom's movie heroes.

One can only feel sad for the fans of "XXX," "The Transporter" or any of the new pretenders who can't hold a candle to Agent 007. Those who thought him too old, too dull and too conventional for the younger generation of movie fans will get their socks knocked off with "Die Another Day." Meshing new ingredients with

BOND/ A31

BROSNAN. Shows that being Bond is not just about sipping dry Martinis and wearing nice tuxedoes.

surf's up!
BLUE CRUSH
IF YOU WANT TO FEEL THE RUSH
YOU HAVE TO TAKE THE RISK
MTRCB RATING: PG-13
IN THEATERS EVERYWHERE DECEMBER 4
™ AND © 2002 UNIVERSAL STUDIOS. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.


myGlobe KitKat moviebreak
Win a Nokia 7650 daily!
Win a P1,000 Prepaid callcard & movie tickets hourly!
Win a Nestle KitKat instantly when you start playing!
Just text KITKAT to 2354
Feel the rush of myGlobe and Nestle KitKat's new MovieBreak trivia game!
Answer trivia questions about your favorite movies for a shot at winnings!
And for movie buffs, check out the latest flicks on myGlobe:
For fast access to current movies > call *5200 on your Globe Handyphone
For skeds and to reserve seats at the Ayala Cinemas > text SURESEATS to 2333.
For skeds of other cinemas > text GTC MOV to 2333.
RATE PER MESSAGE SENT: P2.50 for Prepaid and P2.00 for [illegible] subscribers.
PROMO PERIOD: October [illegible] to December 08, 2002.
Hourly draws will be held from 10am to 11pm everyday. Entries from [illegible] will be included in the first hourly draw on the following day. Employees of Globe Telecom, Nestle Philippines and Chikka Asia are disqualified from joining the promo.
Log on to www.chikka.com.ph for complete terms and conditions.
Far out! Download new [illegible] for a surfin' good time!
BLUE CRUSH
BLUE CRUSH TAKE THE RISK
BLUE CRUSH FEEL THE RUSH
TAKE THE RISK
[illegible]
Powered by: chikka
united international pictures
making great things possible Globe HANDYPHONE

E-mail: pr_business@inquirer.com.ph

BUSINESS

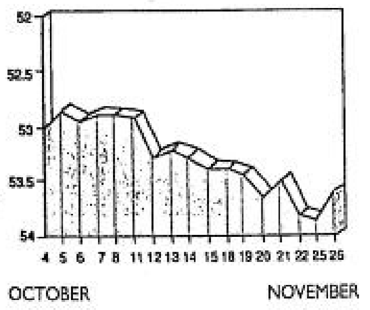
Editor Raul O. Marcelo ◎ Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma

FREE CELLPHONES!
Up to Dec. 31, 2002 from
AMA BANK
AMA Rural Bank of Mandaluyong, Inc.
See posters for details.
Or call (02): 373-9913; 413-5777; 372-6528; 533-0244; 372-6090
Participating outlets:
• Shaw • Pasig • Bacoor • Calamba • Morong • San Pablo • Siniloan • Tanay • Teyug • Ozamis
MEMBER PDIC. Deposits insured up to P100,000.00 per Depositor

Bad governance seen behind RP's slow dev't

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P 53.59 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., Nov. 26, 2002

¥ 122.02 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., Nov. 26, 2002

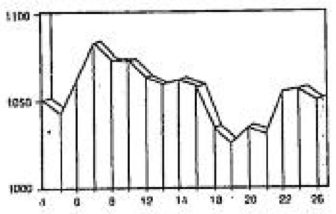
GOLD: $318.50/319.00

per ounce Hong Kong, Nov. 26, 2002

STOCK MARKET

Stocks fall on profit-taking

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

STOCKS fell yesterday as investors decided to cash in recent gains against a backdrop of domestic and external worries including the rising budget deficit and a possible war in Iraq, traders said.

Several leading large caps came under profit-taking pressure with index heavyweight PLDT ending a four-day winning streak closing off P12.50, or 4.39 percent, at P272.50.

The main index ended down 5.56 points, or 0.53 percent, at 1,050.85.

Value turnover reached P246.66 million against P245.23 million on Monday.

Reuters

THE PHILIPPINES is full of potential and always will be, an old quip goes.

Less amusingly for the 45 percent of the population who survive on P100 a day, the chances seem slim of rapidly reversing decades of underachievement that have left the Philippines with the second-lowest income per head, after Indonesia, among the larger economies of East Asia.

"I wish I could tell you that I can see a silver lining but I don't know if there are any long-term solutions. I'm actually fairly pessimistic," said Clarence Henderson, a Manila-based management consultant.

Once picked by the World Bank along with Burma, now Myanmar, as the Asian economy most likely to prosper, the Philippines' per capita gross domestic product (GDP) was much higher in 1950 than that of Taiwan, Korea, Thailand and China.

Yet all four long ago overtook the Philippines, whose GDP per head and productivity were about the same in 2000 as in 1980.

From protectionist trade policies to unequal wealth distribution, development experts offer a laundry list of reasons to explain the poor performance of a country blessed with well-developed civil institutions and high education standards.

"But the bottom line is that none of us really knows," said Lloyd McKay of the World Bank's Manila office.

What investors know is that the case for pumping money into the Philippines is getting harder, not easier, for compounding the age-old scourges of corruption and crumbling infrastructure is a growing security threat from criminal gangs as well as communist guerrillas and Muslim separatists.

"Foreign investors will not come here when the infrastructure is so bad, they see serious threats to peace and order and to their personal safety and there's a perception that it's hard to work with the bureaucracy because of widespread corruption," said Arsenio Balisacan, an economics professor at the University of the Philippines.

On the plus side of the ledger, Balisacan pointed to reforms launched in the 1990s to lower tariffs and liberalize some industries, but he said much more needed to be done to dilute the power of a small elite of super-rich families that dominate Philippine economic and political life.

These groups have done lasting damage to the economy by opposing reforms that would have introduced greater competition in areas they dominate, such as manufacturing, banking and power, and forced them to invest to stay ahead, Balisacan said.

Partly as a result, investment rates in the Philippines are much

BAD/ B2

Gov't urged to relax equity rule on infra projects

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr

THE FOREIGN Chambers of the Philippines are urging the government to subsidize and relax foreign equity limits on infrastructure projects to attract more interest from foreign investors in key build-operate-transfer (BOT) projects.

In a meeting with the Department of Trade and Industry, the FCP presented a set of recommendations to the government in its formation of guidelines to entice more private sector participation in public infrastructure projects.

The DTI has taken over the role of the Coordinating Council for the Philippine Assistance Program (CCPAP) in pooling all foreign aid pledged for flagship infrastructure projects.

The FCP said that the existing revenue streams for rail, roads and port projects were below the rate of return required by the private sector to participate in BOT and its derivative schemes. For a project to be given any chance to proceed, the FCP said the government should be prepared to offer support to selected projects to ensure a sustainable revenue stream up to 30 years.

Thus, when a BOT project is put up for bidding, the government should indicate the maximum level of support that it could give and it should choose the proponent with a sustainable bid that required the least government support.

Aside from subsidies, the FCP also proposed that the government relax the ownership requirements for particular, critical infrastructure projects when there is clearly no Philippine company that meets the criteria.

GOV'T/ B5

Intimidation in Motion
CHEVROLET
TAHOE
Get the new Chevrolet Tahoe and see everyone get out of the way. This 4 x 2 carries more than just ten people. It carries the allegiance of millions of people around the world who have sworn by the legendary strength of the Chevy Truck.

See the 2002 Chevrolet Tahoe at
www.generalmotors.com.ph

GM AutoWorld MAKATI
2296 Don Chino Roces Ave.,
(formerly Pasong Tamo) Makati City
Tel. Nos.:867-8183 to 87 / 817-8056
817-8059

GM AutoWorld QUEZON AVENUE
1231 Quezon Ave., Quezon City
Tel. Nos. 374-1250 to 59 / 413-8133
372-8001, 415-8878
Fax No.: 372-8006

GM AutoWorld SHAW
500 Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City
Tel. Nos. 535-4944 / 535-4938
533-1263
Fax No.: 535-4937 / 535-4935

GM AutoWorld PAMPANGA
MacArthur Highway, Dolores,
City of San Fernando, Pampanga
Tel. Nos.: (045) 961-2002, (045) 860-2000
Tel/Fax No.:(045) 961-2003

GM AutoWorld CEBU
Gov. Cuenco Ave., Cebu City
Tel. No.: (32) 234-0426
Fax No.: (32) 231-7760

GM AutoWorld showrooms are open 7 days a week.

GM AutoWorld

REV-X
Oil the Way!
Bili na, Papa!
Minimum purchase lang ng isang litro ng Rev-X plus P85 oil yours na ang "Wish Ko Sa Pasko" X'mas Album ng Sex Bomb Girls

Solve problems, faster! Call 75-QUEST

GLOBE TELECOM

Sign up for GlobeQUEST DSL and find answers to questions on the net at unbelievably fast speeds. Call and experience the DSL that's really up to speed, now.

Globe QUEST DSL
BROADBAND INTERNET

Bad governance seen behind RP's slow dev't

From page B1

lower than in neighboring countries, shackling growth.

"For decades, it has been easier for them to lobby for policies that favor them than to work hard, sweat for technology improvements and think how to improve efficiency," he said.

With insufficient jobs being generated at home, an estimated 5 million to 7 million Filipinos have been compelled to earn their living abroad in what Michael Alan Hamlin, who runs a strategic marketing firm in Manila, called a kind of modern slave trade.

"When you don't have competition, there's little incentive to maximize your revenues, so jobs aren't created," Hamlin said. "The Philippines is notable in that the elites have done very, very little for their country."

The resistance to change is currently delaying power sector reform and legislation to set up asset management companies to reduce the bad loans on banks' books; despite a regional free-trade drive, the government also plans to keep petrochemical producers sheltered behind a 15-percent tariff wall.

President Macapagal-Arroyo's track record on reforms has also disappointed many analysts, who say her reluctance to take on vested interests and tackle the root causes of a bulging budget deficit can only grow in the run-up to elections in 2004.

"I don't think there's anything wrong with her policies, but we are not passing reforms as quickly as we should," said Peter Wallace, head of the Wallace Business Forum consultancy.

What specially galls Ernesto Pernia, an economist with the Asian Development Bank, is the government's failure to curb the country's booming population for fear of incurring the ire of the powerful Catholic Church, which bans contraceptives.

Growing by 2.3 percent a year, the Philippine population of 79 million is on course to double within 30 years, posing a daunting obstacle to poverty reduction.

"There is now a groundswell of demand on the part of the business sector and civil society groups to push the government to bite the bullet on this issue," Pernia said. "But politicians are risk averse, they'd rather play safe."

One view is that Ms Macapagal, who took over when Joseph Estrada was ousted in January 2001, has been hobbled from acting decisively on this and other fronts by the lack of a democratic mandate. If she is reelected, according to this thinking, she will have the political legitimacy to translate her training as an economist into practical results. But given the Philippines' long history of unfulfilled potential, others say it is unrealistic to expect miracles no matter who wins in 2004.

"I don't see anybody on the political landscape with the leadership qualities the country needs," said Henderson, the management consultant.

Hamlin, the marketing strategist, was also skeptical. "Can the Philippines get over this? Yes, but it takes commitment, strong leadership and a willingness to take some pain. Are those things present now? No, I don't think they are," he said. *Reuters*

Chic Uniform, Inc.
WE DESIGN AND MANUFACTURE
ALL KINDS OF UNIFORMS
AT AFFORDABLE PRICES !!!
Call Us At: 926-4070 or 72 / 924-1402 / 929-4240

First Pacific OKs Boni land deal

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE FIRST Pacific Co. Ltd. of Hong Kong board has approved "in principle" the $90 million debt-for-equity deal recently signed by local property unit Metro Pacific Corp. with the Ayala-Campos group covering a majority stake in the Fort Bonifacio Global City development project.

In a statement yesterday, First Pacific executive director and corporate secretary Ronald Brown said the board found the transaction as "being in the best interests of the company" but noted that the participation of its subsidiary Larouge BV was referred to an independent committee for further scrutiny.

The deal signed on Saturday involved the takeout by the Ayala-Campos group of the $90-million principal loan owed by MPC to First Pacific through Larouge. The loan was secured by the 50.4-percent stake in Bonifacio Land Corp., which in turn owns 55 percent of Global City developer Fort Bonifacio Development Corp.

"In this respect, the independent board committee, which will consider whether or not the terms of the proposed transaction are fair and reasonable so far as the independent shareholders are concerned, will appoint an independent financial adviser to advise it in this regard," Brown said.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Tuesday, November 26, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17.5	17.75	17.5	17.75	12,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	39.5	39.5	39	39	331,700
China Banking Corp.	615	615	615	615	2,000
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	26	26	26	26	166,600
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	31	32	30.5	31	128,500
Prudential Bank	400	400	400	400	10
Philippine National Bank	26	26	26	26	500
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	9,000
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.35	0.41	0.35	0.41	200,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1310	1310	1310	1310	340
Sun Life Financial Serv.	950	980	950	975	10,070
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	700
Diversified Fin. Network	3	3	3	3	1,000
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.43	0.43	0.4	0.4	5,780,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	415	420	415	420	225,950
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	100,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.16	0.17	0.16	0.17	420,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	282.5	282.5	272.5	272.5	93,520
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	6,000,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	10	10	9.9	10	66,700
Manila Electric Co. B	11.5	11.5	11.25	11.5	960,500
Petron Corp.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	441,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.24	1.28	1.24	1.28	3,020,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.38	2.38	2.36	2.38	519,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05	1,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Alsons Cement Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	80,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.16	2.16	2.16	2.16	61,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	14.75	15.25	14.75	15.25	496,800
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	34.5	34.5	34	34.5	67,000
San Miguel Corp. A	58	58	57.5	58	10,800
San Miguel Corp. B	64.5	64.5	64	64.5	48,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	90,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	50,000
Ayala Corp.	4.9	4.95	4.8	4.95	2,305,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.32	2.34	2.3	2.34	2,508,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43	20,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	10	10	10	10	10,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.15	0.15	0.145	0.15	4,680,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	33,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	117,800
Global Equities Inc.	0.06	0.06	0.05	0.05	2,500,000
Ionics Inc.	1.14	1.14	1.08	1.08	75,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	1,660,000
Music Corp.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	400,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1	1	1	1	170,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.041	0.041	0.041	0.041	100,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Interphil Labs Inc. A	1.88	1.88	1.88	1.88	50,000
Interphil Labs Inc. B	1.88	1.88	1.88	1.88	100,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	200,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.035	0.036	0.035	0.036	2,300,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	10.25	10.75	10.25	10.75	130,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.35	0.36	0.35	0.36	1,500,000
Manila Jockey Club	4.5	6	4.5	6	12,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	15	15.25	15	15.25	323,700
Jollibee Warrants	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	8,400
PLDT (10% Pref) Series L	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series M	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series O	10	10	10	10	2,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.1	5.1	5	5	2,135,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.27	0.27	380,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.115	400,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	1,510,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	0.95	0.95	0.88	0.92	890,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	1.96	1.96	1.96	1.96	100,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.145	0.145	0.125	0.125	2,190,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	9,000
SM Development Corp.	1.06	1.08	1.06	1.08	3,388,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.3	5.3	5.1	5.3	3,115,000
MINING					
Omico Corp.	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002	2,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	800,000
OIL					
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	110,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc	862,720	33,153,500.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	37,719,870	180,735,395.00
PRO	14,117,000	32,211,230.00
Mining	2,800,000	228,000.00
OIL	110,000	17,600.00
GRAND TOTALS :	55,609,590	246,345,725.00

	AVERAGES	
Bank & Fin Svc	394.88	UP 0.28
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,480.23	DOWN 4.90
PRO	461.18	DOWN 8.43
Mining	1,078.54	UP 2.34
OIL	1.26	DOWN 0.01
All Shares Index	649.76	UP 4.64
Composite	1,050.85	DOWN 5.56

NO. OF ADVANCES: 20; NO. OF DECLINES: 27; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 25; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 72; NO. OF TRADES: 1,192

DISCLOSURES

ELECTED directors of **AJO.Net Holdings Inc.** were Simplicio Roxas, Anselmo Trinidad Jr., Alfredo Ramos, Ronaldo Salonga, Chito Bustamante, Ramon Antonio Lopez and Miguel Varela.

* * *

CENTRO Escolar University has declared 26.1 million treasury shares as property dividends to shareholders of record as of Dec. 6 with payment date on Dec. 20. Also declared were cash dividends of P0.10 per share to shareholders of record as of Dec. 20 and shall be payable on Dec. 23.

* * *

JOLLIBEE Foods Corp. shall grant senior officers of the company and its subsidiaries the option to subscribe to shares of stock of the company at prices and under the terms of its approved senior management stock option plan.

* * *

EQUITABLE PCI Bank said that its proposed $100-$130 million subordinated notes due 2012 was given a "Ba1" rating by the Moody's Investors Service. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

Nov. 26, 2002 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.007963	1	53.841
Japan	Yen	0.008255	0.00819	0.441
United Kingdom	Pound	1.577664	1.5652	84.2719
Hongkong	Dollar	0.129254	0.128233	6.9042
Switzerland	Franc	0.67858	0.673219	36.2468
Canada	Dollar	0.640994	0.63593	34.2391
Singapore	Dollar	0.568988	0.564493	30.3929
Australia	Dollar	0.563643	0.55919	30.1073
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.673712	2.65259	142.8181
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.26879	0.266667	14.3576
Brunei	Dollar	0.56841	0.56392	30.362
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000112	0.000111	0.006
Thailand	Baht	0.023224	0.023041	1.2406
UAE	Dirham	0.274462	0.272294	14.6606
Euro	Euro	1	0.9921	53.4157
Argentina	Peso	0.287989	0.285714	15.3831
Brazil	REAL	0.285622	0.283366	15.2567
Denmark	Kroner	0.134546	0.133483	7.1869
India	Rupee	0.020942	0.020777	1.1187
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.265289	0.263193	14.1706
Mexico	New Peso	0.09969	0.098902	5.325
New Zealand	Dollar	0.502976	0.499002	26.8668
Norway	Kroner	0.136955	0.135873	7.3155
Pakistan	Rupee	0.017304	0.017167	0.9243
South Africa	Rand	0.108758	0.107899	5.8094
Korea	Won	0.000833	0.000826	0.0445
Sweden	Kroner	0.110903	0.110027	5.924
Syria	Pound	0.019572	0.019417	1.0454
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.02909	0.02886	1.5539
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000757	0.000751	0.0404

台灣商品展
Taiwan Products & Technology Fair
On its 10th year
November 28 - December 1, 2002 • 10am-7pm
World Trade Center, Metro Manila

Crossing New Frontiers

Celebrating its 10th year offering to the business community, the widely acclaimed event in the Philippines, Taiwan Products and Technology Fair presents a paradigm shift in rebuilding trade and partnership between the Philippines and Taiwan. Through the showcase of innovative products, new technologies and an array of new features never before seen in any of its series the Fair aims to present new ideas and strategic solutions to support the demand of the new marketplace.

Scheduled on November 28 - December 01, 2002 at the World Trade Center, Metro Manila,, the Taiwan Fair boasts of a wide range of visitors accounting to hundreds of thousands of registered clientele. Already an institutional event, Taiwan Products and Technology Fair has become a significant instrument in promoting joint ventures and two-way trade between the Philippines and Taiwan.

Sponsored by:
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Taiwan, ROC
- Ministry of Economic Affairs, Taiwan, ROC
- Overseas Chinese Affairs Commission, Taiwan, ROC
- Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in the Philippines

Organized by:
TAIWAN ASSOCIATION, INC.

Managed by:
Expovision Trade Service, Inc. (EXPOTRADE)
For details, contact: TAI Office: 687-15-16 / 17
EXPOTRADE: 895-57-35; 895-23-92

brother At your side.
Freebies Galore
MFC [All in One]
Color MFC
Laser MFC
MFC-5100C
MFC-3100C
MFC-2850
MFC-4800
REG. SRP PRICE
PROMO SRP PRICE
FREE
FAX 645
FAX 685MC

Purchase any of these BROTHER Multi-Function Center and get a FREE P-TOUCH LABELING MACHINE!

Color MFC: Color Scanner, Color Printer, Color Copier, & Color Fax
MFC-5100C REG. SRP PRICE ~~P24,900~~ PROMO SRP PRICE P19,900
MFC-3100C REG. SRP PRICE ~~P16,900~~ PROMO SRP PRICE P13,900

Laser MFC: Scanner, Laser Printer, Laser Copier, & Laser Fax
MFC-2850 REG. SRP PRICE ~~P19,900~~ PROMO SRP PRICE P17,900
MFC-4800 REG. SRP PRICE ~~P22,900~~ PROMO SRP PRICE P19,900

ALSO AVAILABLE: MFC-9160 MFC-9180 MFC-9880

FREE Multi-Function Link Cable for every purchase of Fax 645 or Fax 685 MC

FREE Filofax for every purchase of Fax 202, 222, or 333

For every purchase of Laser MFC-9880, get one P-Touch 1750. For every purchase of Laser MFC-9180, MFC-2850, MFC-4800, Color MFC-5100C or MFC-3100C get one P-Touch 65. (Promo Period: Until Nov. 30 only)

• Brother International Philippines Corporation 25-D Chatham House Condominium, VA Rufino (formerly Herrera) cor. Valero Sts., Salcedo Village, Makati City, HOTLINE: 845-1899 Tel Nos. 843-5641, 843-5506, 843-5507, 845-1978 Fax No. 845-1979, e-mail: sales@brother.com.ph

Manufacturing output falls 4.9% in September

By Doris C. Dumlao

MANUFACTURING output in the Philippines fell 4.9 percent in volume terms in September from a year earlier, the National Statistics Office said yesterday.

However, this was an improvement from the revised 11.5-percent decline posted in August, the NSO said.

Among the few industries that posted increases in output were petroleum products, beverages, non-metallic mineral products and fabricated metal products.

Leather products suffered the biggest decrease in output, dropping 18.5 percent, followed by basic metals, which fell 16.6 percent, and furniture and fixtures, which dropped 12.3 percent.

Other losers were wood and wood products and chemical products.

Manufacturing output in value terms fell 0.6 percent in September from a year earlier, following a revised drop of 7.8 percent in August.

Average capacity utilization of the 500 firms surveyed reached 75.8 percent in September, up from 74.6 percent in August.

The manufacturing sector accounts for about 21 percent of the Philippines' gross domestic product.

It also accounts for the bulk of the country's exports, a key linchpin for the economy.

Glasgow starts refund

SOME 9,000 creditors of Glasgow Credit and Collection Services Inc. started receiving yesterday close to 80 percent of the firm's outstanding obligations following a move by the Securities and Exchange Commission to ask the Anti-Money Laundering Council to unfreeze the firm's bank accounts.

Glasgow president Manuel Roldan Jr. said the firm was paying out some P696 million representing its total liquid assets deposited in five banks.

Roldan said he expected payment to be completed over a 15-day period.

The ongoing payment of Glasgow creditors established a first of sorts, as the firm becomes the first to pay back its creditors among several firms issued a cease-and-desist order by the SEC in the wake of its crackdown on small investment operations.

Glasgow lawyers earlier asked the SEC to lift the order, which was issued in July this year following unverified allegations that the firm might have been involved in the sale of securities which was not allowed under the terms of its incorporation.

BayanTel reduces rates

BAYAN Telecommunications Inc. has created two new affordable packages that aim to corner the segment of the communications market "willing to sacrifice mobility and trendiness" for affordable fixed-line phone services.

BayanTel vice president Rodrigo Montinola said yesterday that while mobile phones seemed to be the current preferred medium for communications of many, reasonably priced landline services could still lure others into either augmenting their mobile phones or settling for a reliable fixed line service.

"We recognized that despite the popularity of mobile phones, there remains a market segment who's willing to sacrifice mobility and trendiness for a no-frills fixed telephone at a reasonable cost and backed by reliable service," he said.

BANKARD®
A YGC Company
Hurry! Enjoy even lower PEP Installment rates from Nov. 15 to Dec. 31!
THIS SPACE RESERVED
Want a new ref? A new stove? A new microwave? Get them all through **Bankard PEP Installment.** Enjoy even lower interest rates as **LOW** as **1.29%** per month for a 3-month payment term, **1.34%** per month for 6 months, and **1.5%** per month for 12 months. Plus, get the widest choice of payment terms from **3 to 36 months.** To top all these, you can even shop at any merchant and **convert** any retail purchase or any amount of your outstanding balance **to installment at anytime.** No minimum purchase amount required. Just call Bankard Customer Service at 888-1-888.

BANKARD
A YGC Company
5179 1234 5678
10/02 9/03
BEA DELA CRUZ
BANKARD
JCB
3562 1234 5678 9123
9/03 JCB
BEA DELA CRUZ
BANKARD
A YGC Company
4311 1234 5678 9123
10/02 9/03
BEA DELA CRUZ
VISA
* Promo not applicable to 30 and 36 month terms

Participating Merchants: Abenson • Ambassador Appliance • Ambiance One • Ansons Emporium • Automatic Centre • Blims Fine Furniture • Cathay Builders • Citibeds Electroworld • Handyman • Homeworld • MC Home Depot • SM Appliance • Sogo Factory Outlet • The Computer Authority • True Value • Western Marketing • Wilcon Builders

Malayan Insurance • RCBC • Grepalife • Pacific Plans • House of Investments • RCBC Bankard • AY Foundation • Honda Cars Quezon City, Manila, Kalookan • Isuzu Manila • EEI Corporation • Mapua Institute of Technology and 21 other companies working as one to better serve our customers.
www.ygc.com

YGC Yuchengco Group of Companies
TOGETHER WE CAN DO MORE FOR YOU.

Impress clients, faster! Call 75-QUEST

GLOBE TELECOM
Sign up for GlobeQUEST DSL and do e-business with your clients at unbelievably fast speeds. Call and experience the DSL that's really up to speed, now.
Gl be QUEST DSL
BROADBAND INTERNET

The Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants

> *"The greatest challenge this year is not on how to achieve the programs but on how to make PICPA members work together. For if the members work together, PICPA's achievements will be boundless. TOGETHER ONWARDS, we will succeed."*

56th Annual National Convention

November 26 to 29, 2002
Bacolod City, Negros Occidental

MESSAGES

I commend the men and women of the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants (PICPA) for spearheading this 56th PICPA Annual National Convention. Your collective efforts to promote trade, business collaboration, and investment opportunities in the region will be a vital force in the global market.

This event with the theme: *"Together, Onwards...,"* emphasizes the important role that you play in shaping our nation's future. Your dynamic participation in stimulating economic activities is consistent with our commitment to progress and prosperity. Indeed, the cooperation among your members, partners and affiliates provides the synergy to create a vibrant business environment.

I am confident our partnership will hasten economic prosperity and the equitable development in our country. I wish the success of this event and urge you to carry on your worthy undertakings.

MABUHAY!

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines

I ampleased to greet and wish the delegates of the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants (PICPA) a successful 56th Annual National Convention.

Your chosen theme, "Together, Onwards..." is a timely manifestation of PICPA's collective determination to assume responsibility for guiding the development of the accountancy profession towards a globally and ethical Filipino professional. These concerns require the leaders of the accountancy profession to act with decisive solidarity and to lead the profession in making every Filipino accountant attuned with the ethical issues of the times.

CPAs should look forward to this gathering not only as a time for continuing professional development but also as a chance for renewing friendships and acquaintances.

Congratulations and Mabuhay.

JOSE ISIDRO G. CAMACHO
Secretary of Finance

The Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) extends its warmest felicitations to the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants on the occasion of its 56th Annual National Convention.

The key to attaining world-class Filipino professionals lies in the collective efforts of the Commission and its partner associations such as the PICPA to adopt and benchmark international best practices and standards. I am heartened that the Institute is progressively carrying out this mandate.

The convention theme, "Together... Onwards," demonstrates the Institute's resolve for stronger collaboration in order to address the emerging global challenges to the profession. The Enron scandal may have challenged the ethical standards of our profession but let us stand firm and strong in our stand for good corporate governance and transparency.

I have high hopes that the PICPA, in partnership with the Commission, will continue to sustain its pursuit to promote high professional standards among accounting professionals. For its part, the Commission will continue to nurture Filipino Certified Public Accountants to professional excellence through a customer-focused, technology-propelled, vibrant and dynamic regulation.

Congratulations and Mabuhay.

ANTONIETA FORTUNA-IBE
Chairperson
Professional Regulation Commission

On behalf of the Board of Accountancy, allow me to convey our warmest greetings on the occasion of the 2002 Annual National Convention of the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants (PICPA).

"Great things are accomplished with a series of ordinary things done extraordinarily well by a united people with unified goals." Quite the opposite maxim to state especially during these very trying times when technological barriers rapidly disintegrate and globalization is but a distant yet still resounding cry of the past. With each new advancement, the demands double and the mandate for excellence rise up a niche higher. Traditional imperatives have been augmented by the onslaught of technological developments and borderless enterprises. With the advent of modernization, the world becomes subject to a new economic order, consequently exposing us to inexorable waves of changes, which we must dexterously confront armed with a fierce sense of competitiveness, efficiency and competence. For it is in this way, that we, as accountants could prove, people still play the paramount role in living out excellence in the workplace.

To be able to achieve such a Herculean task, we as accountants must remain well informed and cognizant. We must learn to sift through the torrent of information to seek out the essentials and use it to better ourselves. At a time when information technology can provide links to just about any field of endeavor, we must seek out a renascence in the accounting profession. We must concentrate on eradicating the seemingly perennial problem of the profusion of manpower in the accounting workplace and instead work towards the fulfillment of excellence and the relentless pursuit of providing trust-based service. Let us use the *competitiveness* in its truest sense by proving that we are capable enough to be at par with if not better than our foreign counterparts. There is never too much of something or someone where excellence is concerned. Each is tasked with proving himself competent enough to be a part of such an elite group of officials tasked with handling the financial matters in the multi-farious world of business and economics alike.

Once again, congratulations and more power!

EUGENE T. MATEO
Chairman
Board of Accountancy

Our warmest welcome to all the officers, members and guests of the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants (PICPA) on their 56th Annual National Convention hosted by the PICPA Negros Occidental Chapter and the Province of Negros Occidental on November 26-29, 2002.

Your theme, "Together, Onwards..." is indeed timely and proper given the prevailing conditions in the country and the rest of the world as well.

As a world-wide organization, you have made it your mission to enhance the integrity of the accountancy profession thus serving the best interest of your members and contributing your share in the attainment of our country's development.

Through your programs, you have continued to keep abreast with the modern needs of your profession and as a result have become at par with the accounting practices around the world while maintaining a strict conduct of ethics along the path.

I wish you success in your convention and in your endeavors to leave a better legacy for the future generations.

JOSEPH G. MARAÑON
Governor
Province of Negros Occidental

On behalf of the people of Bacolod City, let me extend my warm felicitations to the officers and members of the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants (PICPA) which holds its 56th Annual National Convention in Bacolod City on November 26-29, 2002.

Your theme, "Together Onwards", is timely and appropriate amidst the recent presidential call for national unity towards building a "strong republic" of the Philippines.

Hence, I am proud and elated that you gather in our highly urbanized City of Bacolod to manifest your non-meandering commitment to your profession as indispensable partner of our government in nation building.

Bacolod City was recently adjudged as the 2nd Most Competitive Mid-sized City in our country by the Asian Institute of Management, thus I am confident we would be able to meet and satisfy your convention needs, such as your security, accommodation, and mobility.

May you have a successful and rewarding three-day convention in this City of Smiles!!!

JOY S. VALDEZ
City Mayor
City of Bacolod

It is with distinct pleasure and pride that I welcome you, colleagues and peers in the accountancy profession, on the occasion of this 56th Annual National Convention of the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants on November 26-29, 2002 at Bacolod City, my hometown.

With the theme for this year's convention "Together, Onwards...", PICPA signals its determination to keep pace with today's challenges and to do so with a renewed sense of unity. I believe this convention will provide ample opportunity for regeneration of spirit, knowledge and, above all, for putting fresh perspectives on the many tasks that face each one of us.

Finally, on behalf of the officers and members of PICPA, I welcome each and every one of you to this convention and allow me to take this opportunity to enjoin all of you to continuously and collectively work together for the development of world-class Filipino accounting professionals.

Truly we are moving, and we should move no other way but "Together, Onwards..."

CARLITO B. FUENTESPINA
PICPA 2002 National President

CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

DATE	ACTIVITIES	VENUE
NOVEMBER 26, TUESDAY		
11AM – 5 PM	Annual Planning Conference	Bacolod Convention Plaza Hotel
	Sports Fests:	
6 AM (Whole Day)	Golf	Neg. Occ. Golf & Country Club
8 AM – 12 NN	Lawn Tennis	Neg. Occ. Tennis Association
1:30 PM – 5:30 PM	Bowling	Superlanes Bowling, Goldenfield
NOVEMBER 27, WEDNESDAY		
8 AM – 12 NN	Annual Planning Conference	Bacolod Convention Plaza Hotel
8 AM – 4 PM	Registration	Bacolod Convention Plaza Hotel
9 AM – 2 PM	Educator's Forum	Bacolod Convention Plaza Hotel
1 PM – 4 PM	Mini-Lecturers	Pana-ad Stadium
4 PM–6 PM	Opening Plenary Session	Pana-ad Stadium
6:30 PM	DINNER Governor's/Fellowship Night	
NOVEMBER 28, Thursday		
Technical Sessions:		
8 AM – 9:15 AM	Good Governance/SEC Updates	Bacolod Convention Plaza Hotel
9:15 AM – 10:30 AM	Financial Restructuring /	Bacolod Convention Plaza Hotel
10:45 AM – 12:00 NN	GAAS/GAAP Updates	Bacolod Convention Plaza Hotel
12:00 NN – 1:00 PM	LUNCHEON MEETING	Bacolod Convention Plaza Hotel
1:30 PM – 2:45 PM	PRC/BOA Updates	Bacolod Convention Plaza Hotel
3:00 PM – 5 PM	BIR/Taxation Updates	Bacolod Convention Plaza Hotel
6:00 PM – 7:30 PM	DINNER	Pana-ad Stadium
NOVEMBER 28, Thursday		
7:30 PM	Awards' Night Regional Competition	
NOVEMBER 29, FRIDAY		
9:30 AM – 11:00 AM	Annual Business Meeting	Bacolod Convention Plaza Hotel
11:00 PM – 12:30 PM	Distribution of Chapter and Regional Awards Closing Plenary Session	Bacolod Convention Plaza Hotel
12:30 PM – 1:30 PM	LUNCH	Bacolod Convention Plaza Hotel
1PM–2PM	Registration for Oathtaking	Bago Room, BCPH
2PM–3PM	Oathtaking of New CPAs	
4PM–5PM	Thanksgiving Mass	Bago Room, BCPH
7:00 PM	Dinner/ Fellowship "A Night to Remember"	Business Inn

*Bacolod Convention Plaza Hotel

2002 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

CARLITO B. FUENTESFINA
National President

CRISANTO F. CASTRO, JR.
Executive Vice President

EMERITA S. DIAZ
Vice President for Operations

GERARD B. SANVICTORES
Vice President for Professional Development & Research

ROBERTO G. MANABAT
Secretary

EVELY L. CHUNPENG
Treasurer

REGIONAL DIRECTORS

ROSALINDA D. EVANGELISTA
Metro Manila

GERARD B.. SANVICTORES
Metro Manila

EVELY L. CHUNPENG
Metro Manila

MINDA A. SINGH
Metro Manila

RODOLFO C. CAROLINO
Northern Luzon

MARITA M. FLORES
Central Luzon

JOSE M. PAGLINAWAN JR.
Central Luzon

PAZ L. BOBADILLA
Southern Luzon

CRISANTO F. CASTRO JR
Southern Luzon

SABINO R. DAPAT
Eastern Visayas

MANUEL M. PASCUAL
Eastern Visayas

CARLITO B. FUENTESFINA
Western Visayas

AMARYLIS JOSEPHINE C. CASTRO
Western Visayas

EDUARDO C. CUENCA
Northern Mindanao

EDGAR D. ESPARAGUERA SR.
Northern Mindanao

ELPIDIO O. BARCELONA, III
Southern Mindanao

ANTONIO G. VENERACION
Southern Mindanao

SECTORAL DIRECTORS

EMERITA S. DIAZ
Commerce & Industry

CECILIA R. PATRICIO
Commerce & Industry

MA. CONCEPCION Y. LUPISAN
Education

ESTER F. LEDESMA
Education

NESTOR B.. PEREZ
Government

GERARDO R. FLORENDO
Government

ROBERTO G. MANABAT
Public Practice

RUBY R. SEBALLE
Public Practice

OTHER OFFICERS

JOSE A. GANGAN
Ex-Officio

HORACE F. DUMLAO
Executive Director

RHODA C. ASPAN
Executive Assistant to the President

ELIZABETH G. PAGUIO
Executive Assistant to the President

It is with great pride and elation that I welcome all delegates to the 56th Annual National Convention of PICPA to Bacolod- the City of Smiles – and to Negros Occidental, the sweetest province in the Philippines today. The organization is only as good as the members of the profession, that is why, this gathering is an important event which ensures the continued enrichment of our knowledge and skills as we face the challenge of the future.

For the past years, we have witnessed and participated in the most rapid, if not astronomical progress in the field of information technology, science and management which have greatly affected the practice of our profession. We have also seen the spectre of the on-going crisis in the Middle East and in Southern Mindanao which reflects the almost savage and irrational contempt of man against his fellowmen,

However, inspite of all these, I still feel and believe that ours is a beautiful and wonderful world, that is why this affair is a welcome respite to all our worries and cares as we begin to discover innovative methods and practices that will address the issues confronting the accountants today. Like the rest of the major discipline, the art of accountancy cannot afford to lag behind in this scientific progress which makes this annual convention both a necessity and a pleasurable undertaking for all CPAs.

And,so, I say, - Together Onwards – all accountants to the great race of science and technology of the third millennium.

WILHELMINA R. GONZALES
Chair
56th PICPA Annual National Convention

PERCIVAL C. SALADO
Chairman (Host Chapter)
56th PICPA Annual National Convention

56th PICPA Annual National Convention Committees

National Chair, ANC - Wilhelmina R. Gonzales

Executive Committee	Host Chapter
Chairman	Percival C. Salado
Vice Chair	Belma T. Pestaño
Treasurer	Ma. Asuncion M. Golez
Members	Jessie D. Cabaluna
	Merlinda L. Ordoyo
	Godofredo M. San Jose
Auditor	Attila D. Granada
Secretary	Mabel M. Pomperada
Asst. Secretary	Jane A. Lamboso
Sub-Committee Chairpersons:	
Finance/Solicitation	Ma. Asuncion M. Golez
Food	Lerio N. Tanglao
Hotel Accommodation	Hernan G. Maglupay
Program	Belma T. Pestaño
Publication	Evelyn G. Sarabia
Reception/Decoration	Marietta E. Laguardia
Secretariat	Percival P. Salado, Jr.
Sports	Vicente P. Bugaay, Jr.
Technical Session (National)	Celso P. Vivas
Host Chapter	Mabel M. Pomperada
Trade & Exhibit	Mabel M. Pomperada
Transportation	Jerry F. Bantilan
Tours	Socorro Victoria L. De Leon
Ways & Means	Dionisio J. Caspe, Jr.
Physical Arrangement	Perico H. Hernaez

Escalating Ernest

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

THE "SOCIALITE" Ernest Escaler (adjective courtesy of Rep. TeddyBoy Locsin's community paper) has suddenly made himself scarce even to close friends, failing to answer urgent calls and text messages to his cell phone.

Still, the intrepid Ces Drilon of ANC 21 had managed to reach him after Rep. Mark Jimenez delivered his $2-million speech, according to the grapevine. As of the time of this writing yesterday afternoon, the award-winning broadcaster's famed charm has yet to work its effect on her elusive subject and make him appear on camera.

According to the grapevine, Escaler has also been in touch with Justice Undersecretary Dondi Teehankee, his bosom buddy in New York where Teehankee cut his legal teeth, worried about the prospects of a plunder case looming over his bald pate.

Apparently, Escaler, who because of his social connections was made local marketing representative of the Coutts Bank, the private banking arm of The Royal Bank of Scotland Group, had thought the $2-million tale would simply go away even after he was identified in this column in September 2001.

According to the legal grapevine, Escaler has just asked lawyer Jose Bernas to represent him, now that MJ had already fingered the Café Gourmet owner as conduit for what is now claimed to be a plunder-level payoff.

(A nephew of Jesuit constitutionalist Joaquin Bernas, Bernas is the lawyer who initiated the impeachment proceedings against Comelec Commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco.)

After his name came out in Cocktales, Escaler was supposed to have told friends that the $2 million wired to a Coutts Bank account in Hong Kong, which was apparently his, represented the dollars that MJ had agreed to sell him at friendly peso rate.

Leviste's line

FORMER Gov. Antonio Leviste, a.k.a. the husband of Loren Legarda, had been mulling over for months now on how to boost the chances of his senator-wife, who is angling the vice presidency.

"I am even willing to divorce my wife, if that would help her candidacy," he quoted himself as telling Msgr. Nico Bautista, after the priest told him to his face that he is more of a liability than an asset to the popular broadcaster-politician.

The senator's decision last week to revert to using her maiden surname apparently is an acknowledgement of that handicap, specially in the wake of rumors about her husband's numerous legal entanglements.

Justice on the spot

COURT of Appeals Justice Gorardo Jacinto has been given 30 days to submit the results of the ongoing marathon investigation he is conducting involving the so-called "hoodlums in robes" of Baguio City.

According to the grapevine, the investigation has been widened to include six of the eight Baguio Regional Trial Court judges, up from the four originally denounced by RTC Judge Ruben Ayson.

The investigation has been proceeding at a snail's pace, until Ayson himself complained to Chief Justice Hilario Davide, according to the grapevine.

In blowing the whistle against his fellow judges, Ayson, a San Beda law graduate, is treading on dangerous grounds, specially since a number of the judges are UP Sigma Rhoans, whose well-connected fraternity permeates the judiciary, including Supreme Court Administrator Presbitero Velasco.

Velasco, incidentally, had already cleared one of the judges, a classmate, in a related administrative complaint.

Heard through the grapevine

JOLLIBEE's Tony Tan Caktiong was unanimously voted by the Management Association of the Philippines as Management Man of the Year.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

Gov't urged . . .

From page B1

An alternative is for the government to take the role of the private company and provide a performance undertaking that would make the project bankable.

FCP claimed that allowing greater foreign participation in the BOT projects provide a greater incentive for the foreign community to invest in the Philippines.

"There is empathy from the present administration but it will require a change to the regulatory environment. This is a matter that will need very careful development and communication to demonstrate the benefit to the community as a whole in being able to accelerate the rate of infrastructure development that the country desperately needs," the FCP said.

The FCP said its proposals were prompted by a World Bank policy review which called for further reforms if the Philippines was to catch up with middle-income Asian countries in terms of attracting investors to participate in infrastructure development. The WB said the country needed between $35 billion and $45 billion in fresh private sector investments to improve the infrastructure in the country.

what keeps You HOT!
"The All-Natural Super Sex Booster"

One of the Oldest Norwegian Herbal Formulas
For Men and Women
- Allows STRONGER, FASTER and SUSTAINED SEX.
- Allows SHORTER RECOVERY PERIOD.
- Increases Libido in both sexes Naturally by increasing the release of Hormones.
- Can be taken regularly or at a larger dosage for instant reaction.
- BFAD APPROVED
- Ideal for diabetics & those w/ heart problem.
- No Doctor's Prescription Needed!

POTENSAN™

Feel the Difference! Enjoy the Results!

When it comes to SEX LIFE that is BEAUTIFUL, HARD & STRONG...
10 MILLION EUROPEANS CAN'T BE WRONG!!!

European men & women use POTENSAN™

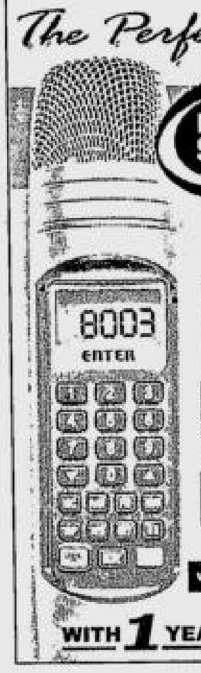
	COMPETITOR	POTENSAN™
Maximum use per day	One	Multiple!
Duration of single dose	Two hours	2 - 3 days!
Ingredients	Chemical substances with side effects	100% all natural herbs
Safety profile	Thousands of reported deaths over FIVE years in the market	Zero report of adverse side effects over TEN years in the market
% of satisfied users	50% (data on file)	90% (data on file)
Cost per use		Up to 70% CHEAPER than popular competitor

POTENSAN™ is the No.1 all natural sex pill in Europe. Join the millions of health concious men and women who experience a higher level of sexual satisfaction.

WE DELIVER NATIONWIDE
E-mail: longlife@i-manila.com.ph

Distributed by Long Life International, Inc

TEL. Nos.:(02) 898-0346 ■(02) 890-7582 TELFAX:(02) 890-7478



The Perfect Holiday Gift!

MAGIC SING Videoke MICROPHONE

- The First and Original Portable Videoke System
- Contains 790 English songs
- Expandable Music Library. Tagalog, Church Hymns, Chinese, Korean, Japanese & Spanish Song Chips available. Use 3 to 4 chips simultaneously!
- All English & OPM songs are licensed

Also Available:
Black Model and Duet Microphone

www.inajiffy.com.ph

CHRISTMAS PROMO GIVEAWAY!
Get a FREE Mic Stand For every MAGIC SING microphone you buy!

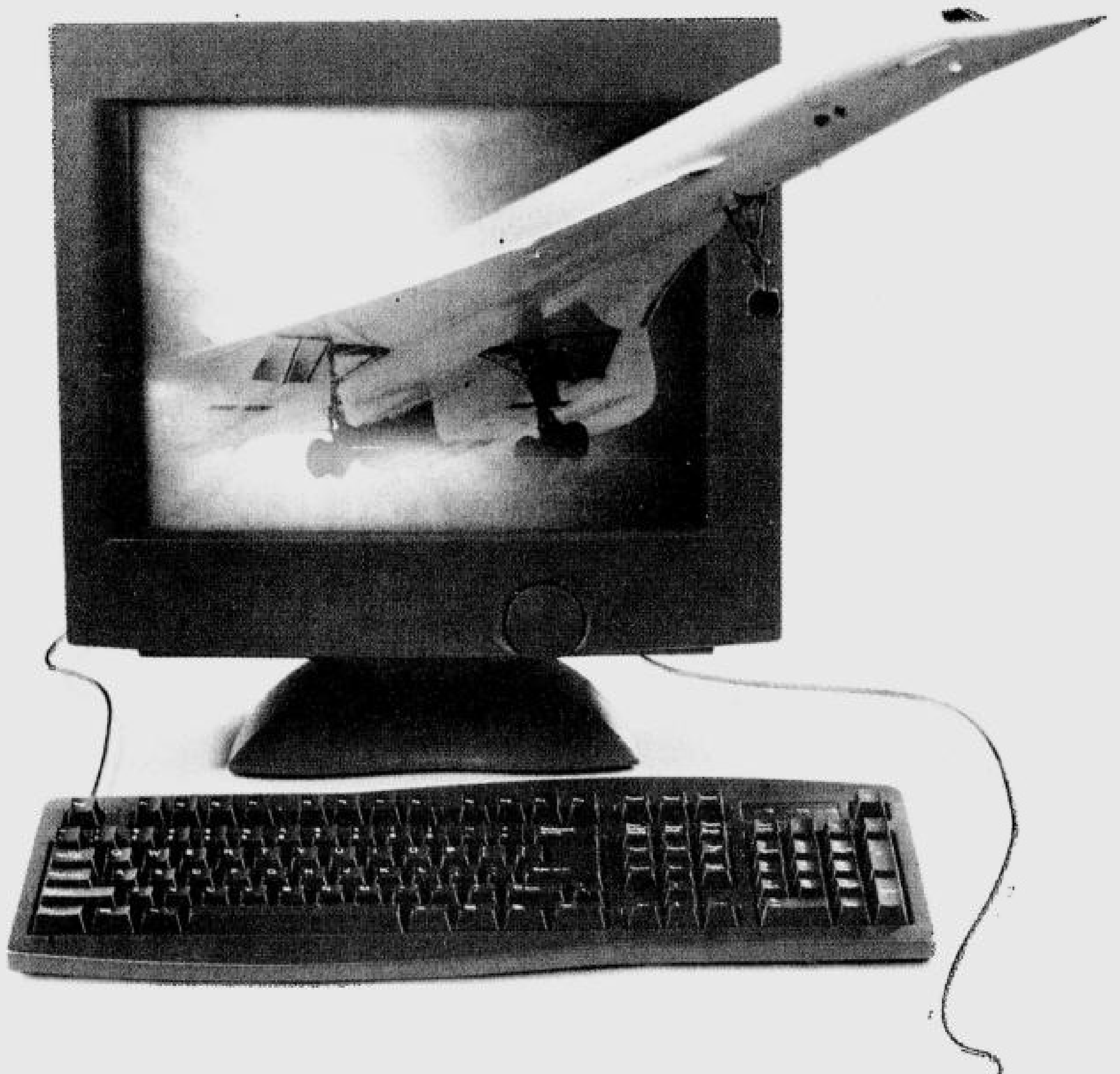
WITH 1 YEAR WARRANTY

ORDER THROUGH OUR WEBSITE!
www.magicmic.com

AVAILABLE AT:

Astroplus, Inc. (The Podium)	Tel. 687-7411
Audio Mixx (Big Ben Complex, Lipa City)	
Audio Mixx (Caedo Comm'l Ctr, Batangas City)	Tel. 726-2806
Audio Mixx (Fiesta World Mall, Lipa City)	Tel. 757-2887
Audio Mixx (Liana's Supermarket, Calamba)	Tel. 545-0227
Audio Mixx (Target Mall, Sta. Rosa)	Tel. 247-7727
Automatic Centre (Alabang Town Center)	Tel. 809-5981
Automatic Centre (SM North EDSA)	Tel. 927-6747
Automatic Centre (Shoppesville, Greenhills)	Tel. 721-3839
Automatic Centre (Tutuban Center Mall)	Tel. 251-0383
Fair 'N Square (Binondo)	Tel. 241-3274
Fair 'N Square (Caloocan)	Tel. 363-8691
Kinetic Audio (FTI, Taguig)	Tel. 838-4301 loc. 3554
MegaMixx Record Bar (SM Megamall)	Tel. 910-5809
OHMS Trader (Quiapo)	Tel. 733-2384
Pacific Electronics (Robinson's Ermita)	Tel. 536-4035
Phasetron Audio (Park Square, Ayala)	Tel. 819-7372
Raon Electronics (Quiapo)	Tel. 733-1792
Romstrol Gen. Mdse. (Cebu City)	Tel. 255-1558
Sansonic Mfdg. (Quiapo)	Tel. 734-1684
Sogo (Festival Mall, Alabang)	Tel. 850-3535
Sogo (Ali Mall, Cubao)	Tel. 912-6604
Solid Electronics (Quiapo)	Tel. 733-1695
Sound Dimension (Park Square, Ayala)	Tel. 752-7802
W & M Marketing (Raon Shopping Center)	Tel. 735-4727
Worldwide Audio Video (Binondo)	Tel. 241-3446

A Boeing 777 can take you from New York to Paris
in 7 hours and 10 minutes.
The Concorde can take you there
in 3 hours and 45 minutes.



We can take you to New York, Paris and
the rest of the world in seconds.*

*Line speeds range from 256Kbps to 2Mbps.

Navigate the worldwide web at unbelievable speeds with the new GlobeQUEST DSL. It's backed by one of the largest internet backbones in the country with 634 Mbps of bandwidth. And only GlobeQUEST DSL has usage-based packages that allow you to surf within your needs and budget. Now that's DSL that's really up to speed.

SIGN UP NOW AND GET FREE INSTALLATION! CALL 75-QUEST (78378) AND GET CONNECTED.**

GlobeQUEST DSL
BROADBAND INTERNET

4/F Globe Telecom Plaza, Pioneer corner Madison Streets,
1552 Mandaluyong City, Philippines
Tel No:(632) 914-8888 • Fax No:(632) 739-0106
Cebu: Tel. No:(032) 415-8950 • Fax No:(032) 415-8951
Davao: Telefax No:(082) 297-4829
www.globequest.com.ph

** Promo period is extended until December 31, 2002. Approved by DTI-NCR. See leaflets for details.
*** Service initially available in selected areas: Makati, Pasig, Mandaluyong, Ortigas, Libis, Cebu and Davao.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1619 series of 2002.

GLOBE TELECOM

Mula sa mga manggagawa ng Meralco

Pangulong Gloria Macapagal- Arroyo, mga kababayang pinaglilingkuran at mga mamumuhunan sa Meralco,

Nais ipahayag ng mga manggagawa ng Meralco ang aming patuloy na pananalig at pagsuporta sa buong pamunuan ng aming kumpanya at sa kakayahan nitong ipagpatuloy ang serbisyo sa taong bayan sa kabila ng mga pagsubok na kasalukuyan nitong hinaharap.

Sa halos isang daang taon nitong pagse-serbisyo sa mamamayan, sinikap ng Meralco na manatiling tapat sa tungkulin sa may apat na milyon nitong tagapagtangkilik. Patunay nito ang pagkilala sa Meralco ng ilang natatangi at ginagalang na organisasyon bilang isa sa pinaka-mahusay na kumpanya sa Pilipinas at sa buong Asya.

Lahat ng manggagawa ng Meralco, kabilang na ang mga unyon at mga asosasyan ng mga empleyado, ay nakikiisa sa aming pamunuan sa patuloy nitong paglilingkod sa sambayanan. Higit naming pag-iibayuhin ang aming serbisyo lalo na sa mga panahong ito.

Kami'y nagpapasalamat sa pagnanais ng pamahalaan na matulungan ang Meralco sa mga pagsubok na ito. Gayunman, kami ay humihingi ng pagkakataon na ipakita ang aming kakayahang malagpasan ang mga suliraning ito sa abot ng aming makakaya.

Maraming salamat po.

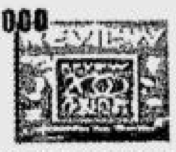
1996 asiamoney
Best Managed Company in the Philippines

1998 asiamoney
4th in the Philippines for Best Strategy & Management

1999

One of Asia's Best Companies

1999 The Asset
9th Best in Corporate Governance in the Asia Pacific Region
6th in the Philippines for Management Excellence

1998-2000

One of Asia's Leading Companies

2001 FinanceAsia
One of Asia's Best Managed Companies

2002 The Asset

Leader in Corporate Governance in the Philippines

2002 asiamoney
3rd among utilities in Asia in Corporate Governance Poll

FIRST LINE ASSOCIATION OF MERALCO SUPERVISORY EMPLOYEES

Mga minamahal naming kababayan,

Ang pamunuan at mga kasapi ng First Line Association of Meralco Supervisory Employees (FLAMES) ay minarapat na sumulat sa inyo upang ipahayag at iparating ang aming pagkakaisa sa paniniwala at pananalig sa kakayahan at talino sa mga nagpapalakad ng aming kumpanya.Nakita po namin ang maayos at progresibong pagsulong ng Meralco mula ng hawakan ng kasalukuyang pamunuan ang pamamalakad nito simula ng taong 1986. Ang isa pa pong patunay dito ay ang pagtanggap namin ng mga awards tulad ng pagiging "Best Managed Company" sa buong Asia na lubos naming ikinararangal.

Kami po ang kasalukuyang dumaraan sa isang matinding pagsubok at naniniwala kami na malalagpasan din namin ang krisis na ito dahil sa patuloy naming pagkakaisa. Umasa po kayo na kami po sa supervisory union ay kasama sa paglutas ng anumang balakid na haharapin ng aming kumpanya at higit po naming ipapakita ang taos-pusong paglilingkod sa inyong mga customer namin upang lubos na maipadama ang tunay na diwa ng Meralco.

Pagpalain tayo ng Panginoon!

Lubos na gumagalang,

EMILIO E. DIOKNO
Pangulo, FLAMES

MERALCO EMPLOYEES AND WORKERS ASSOCIATION

Sa lahat ng kinauukulan,

Nitong mga nagdaang araw, kami pong mga manggagawa ng Meralco ay labis na nababahala sa naging desisyon ng ating Korte Suprema na pagbabayarin ang aming kumpanya ng humigit kumulang sa P28B, sa di umanong "overpayment" sa aming mga customer.

Hindi po kaila sa amin na lubhang napakalaki ng halagang nabanggit. Kung sakali mang ito ay ipatupad na ng Korte Suprema, ito po ay mangangahulugan ng ibayong sakripisyo para sa aming kumpanya.

Kami pong mga manggagawa ng Meralco ay naniniwala sa mga sumusunod:

1. Na ang Meralco ay hindi kailanman nagsamantala at naniningil ng kuryente base sa maling pamamaraan. Ang naging batayan po ng Meralco sa ating pagtatas noong 1994 ay inaprobahan po ng dating ERB na ngayon ay ERC na pinamumunuan ni dating Chairman Rex Tantiongco.
2. Na kami po ay isang tinig na nagpapahayag ng suporta sa aming kumpanya at mahigpit na tumututol sa napapabalitang balak na pagte-"takeover" sa pamunuan nito ng mga taong may mapagsamantalang layunin.
3. Na mali po ang mga paratang at pagpula ng iba nating mga kababayan laban sa Meralco dahil sa kakulangan ng kanilang kaalaman tungkol sa bagay na ito. Katulong po ninyo kami sa pagpapaliwanag at pagpapaunawa sa kanila.
4. Na sa bandang huli, sa tulong ng Poong Maykapal, ang buong katotohanan ay lalabas din.

At habang kami po ay masusing naghihintay sa magiging "final decision" ng Korte Suprema nais po naming ulitin at ipahayag sa inyo ang aming pangakong lalong pag-ibayuhin ang aming paggawa at paglilingkod sa aming mga mahal na customer ng buong puso at katapatan na siya naming naging pamantayan sa loob ng halos isang daang taon.

Kami po ay lubos na umaasa sa KATATAGAN ng aming pamunuan at sa tulong ng Maykapal ay aming sama-samang mapaglalabanan ang matinding krisis at pagsubok na ito at marating ang tagumpay.

Lubos na gumagalang,

ROY AJ BAUTISTA
MEWA-President elect

FROM THE MANAGEMENT TEAM

We the officers and members of Meralco's management team strongly believe and affirm that :

1. Meralco did not overcharge its customers. The inclusion of income tax as part of our operating expenses is consistent and in accordance with the ERB ruling prior to its decision to change this in 1998. Further, this is based on internationally accepted accounting principles and practices of distribution utilities.
2. All private utilities in the Philippines including the about to be privatized National Transmission Co. are entitled to a reasonable rate of return. Thus, the High Court's ruling will have serious implications, unless reversed, not only to Meralco but to all other privately owned electric utilities in the Philippines.
3. Over the years, Meralco has been consistently cited and recognized by reputable business magazines (e.g., Asiamoney, Far Eastern Economic Review and Businessweek) and entities with awards for its overall management excellence and performance. To name a few, we have been for the fifth time since 1991, cited as the best managed company in the Philippines in 1996 and 17th among best managed companies among 100 Asian companies in 1998 through a poll of institutional investors worldwide. We have also been cited as the 9th best in corporate governance in the Asia Pacific region in 1999 and just recently, the 3rd in corporate governance among Asian utilities. This has placed Meralco as one of Asia's "top crop" and one of the best managed companies in the Philippines.
4. Meralco is a company that continuously aims to improve its operations with the best interests of our customers in mind. As far back as 1995, the company has embarked on major organization transformation initiatives with the end of serving our customers through efficent customer delivery systems and competent frontliners and employees.We have also invested and prioritized various electric capital projects which greatly improved overall system performance and reliability.
5. We firmly believe that with the leadership of our top management, Meralco is a company that can stand side by side with the best companies and face all our shareholders with dignity and integrity.

Whatever the final decision of the Supreme Court will be, we, as Meralco's management team will continue to give our full and unrelenting support and commitment to Meralco, and the management of our company, in serving our customers with excellence and integrity. We will not succumb to any takeover which we believe will be deterimental not only to the vision and ideals of Meralco but more so to our avowed commitments to our employees, owners and most especially our customers.

(SGD.)OFFICERS AND MEMBERS, MERALCO MANAGEMENT TEAM

MGA ASOSASYON NG MGA EMPLEYADO SA MERALCO

Sa mga kinauukulan,

Ang pamunuan po at mga kasapi ng mga asosasyon ng empleyado sa Meralco sa pangunguna ng First Line Association ng Meralco Supervisory Employees (FLAMES), Meralco Employees and Workers Association (MEWA), Meralco Association of Cadet Engineers (MACE), Meralco Savings and Loan Association (MESALA), Meralco Retirees Association (MERA), Meralco Employees Fund for Charity, Inc. (MEFCI) at Meralco Employees Mutual Aid and Benefits Association (MEMABA) ay minarapat na ipahayag at iparating ang aming pagkakaisa sa paniniwala at pananalig sa kakayahan at talino ng aming Chairman at Chief Executive Officer (CEO) na si Ginoong Manuel M. Lopez sa pagpapalakad ng aming kumpanya. Nakita po namin ang maayos at progresibong pagsulong ng Meralco mula po ng hawakan ni Ginoong Lopez ang pamamalakad nito simula sa taong 1986.

Ang isa pong konkretong pagpapatunay nito ay ang pagtanggap ng Meralco ng mga awards tulad ng pagiging "Best Managed Company" sa buong Asya na aming lubos na ikinararangal. Ang tunay na isyu po ay ang "Legal and Regulatory Management" at hindi po ang management ng Meralco.

Ang Meralco po ay kasalukuyang dumaraan sa matinding pagsubok at pagbatikos ng mga taong hindi mabatid ang tunay na motibo. Subalit naniniwala ang may anim na libong empleyado nito na aming malalampasan ang krisis na ito sapagkat alam po namin na walang ginawang kasalanan ang aming kumpanya dahil lahat ng aming pagkilos ay tama at naaayon sa batas.

Nananawagan din po kami sa mga politiko, iba't ibang sector at pahayagan na huwag nilang gamitin ang usaping ito para sa kanilang sariling interest. Bahala na po ang Korte Suprema sa mga bagay na ito.

At sa mga mahal naming customer, umasa po kayo na mas higit po naming pag-ibayuhin ang aming taos pusong paglilingkod sa inyong lahat upang maipadama sa inyo ang tunay na diwa at kahulugan ng Meralco Family. Nagpapasalamat po kami sa halos isang daang taong pagtitiwala ninyo sa amin.

Pagpalain nawa tayo ng Poong Maykapal.

Lubos na gumagalang,

EMILIO E. DIOKNO
Pangulo, FLAMES

ROY AJ BAUTISTA
MEWA-President elect

OSCAR RAYOS DEL SOL
President-MACE

DR. BASILIO A. MALVAR, JR.
President-MERA

MANOLO C. FERNANDO
President-MESALA

EMELITO C. VILLEGAS
President-MEMABA

ANGEL P. RECENO
President-MEFCI

MARIO CHRISTOPHER E. YAP
Couples for Christ-
Head, Meralco Chapter

Co-ops' rates slashed

CUSTOMERS of four electric cooperatives will pay 20 to 63 centavos less per kilowatt-hour starting January.

The Energy Regulatory Commission has decided that the utilities' applications for unbundled rates cut, not jack up, existing rates.

Acting ERC Chair Leticia Ibay said in an interview yesterday the decisions would be used for future applications of utilities.

In four separate decisions, all docketed on Nov. 18, the ERC laid out new billing formats for Pangasinan I Electric Cooperative (Panelco I), Pampanga I Electric Cooperative (Pelco I), Sorsogon I Electric Cooperative (Soreco I) and Zamboanga del Sur II Electric Cooperative (Zamsureco II).

"The rates of the four cooperatives in question were lowered because (the National Power Corp.'s) generation charge has decreased," Ibay said.

The Electric Power Industry Reform Act requires all electricity distributors to "unbundle" the rates they collect from consumers into their different components.

Sample billing formats for the four cooperatives include seven kinds of charges.

PHILIPS SOPHO Key Telephone Systems

SOPHO IS80

PHILIPS SOPHO IS80
Hybrid Key Telephone Systems

- Basic System : 4 CO lines, 8 extensions
- Up to : 16 CO lines, 48 extensions

PHILIPS SOPHO D120A
Digital Key Telephone Basic System

- Basic System : 8 CO lines, 40 extensions
- Up to : 144 universal ports

With effect from September 2002, IP-Contact Solutions Phils. Inc. is the ONLY AUTHORISED DISTRIBUTOR for Philips Keyphone Systems in The Philippines.

Key Features :

- Digital Technology
- Caller-ID Integration (FSK/DTMF)
- Power Failure Battery Backup
- Simplified Hotel Facility
- Built-in Modem & Remote Maintenance

We welcome enquiries from Dealers, Resellers & End-Users

CALL NOW : (632) 844-6679
OR e-Mail : esple@i-contact.com.sg

i-Contact

PHILIPS
Let's make things better

IP-Contact Solutions Phils.Inc. Unit 23-A Chatham House Condominium, 116 Valero cor. Herrera Sts. Salcedo Village, Makati City, Philippines [illegible]
Tel: (632) 844-6679 Fax (632) 831-3913 e-Mail: [illegible] Website : [illegible]

LAGOS DEL SOL
RESORT
Lake Caliraya, Cavinti, Laguna

Pre-Christmas Holiday Treat

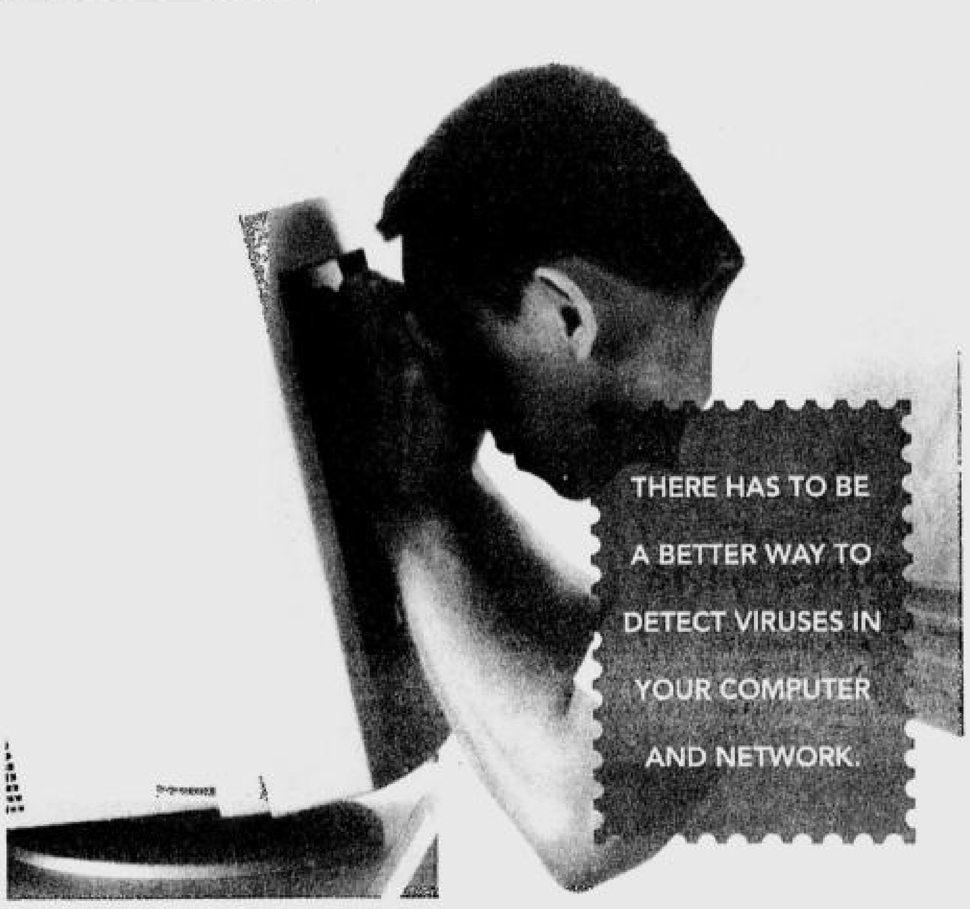
P1,200.00/ Person

MINIMUM OF 15 PERSONS, OVERNIGHT STAY

Triple sharing, buffet service breakfast, lunch, dinner and PM snack, welcome drinks, use of conference room with audio-visual equipment and flowing freshly brewed coffee during session hours.

No Service Charge

For more information you may contact us at:
2150 Aloha Hotel, Roxas Boulevard, Manila cor. Quirino Avenue Malate Manila.
Tel. Nos.: 523-18-27 or 30 • 526-80-88 loc 120/152
523-18-35 • 303-31- 06/07 Tel. Fax No. 526-06-87
Resort # 0919-540 0758 / 68 / 78 / 88/ 98


THERE HAS TO BE A BETTER WAY TO DETECT VIRUSES IN YOUR COMPUTER AND NETWORK.

NETWORK ASSOCIATES YOUR NETWORK. OUR BUSINESS.

A single viral outbreak, if left unchecked, can wreck havoc on your information systems, erasing valuable data and cutting deep into your bottom line. And with blended threats like Nimda, Code Red, Goner, and more than 60,000 known viruses roaming the virtual world – along with hackers and worms – the danger is very real.

McAfee Active Virus Defense Small Business Edition gives your growing empire a fighting chance. Without hindering the way you work, it provides a centrally managed defense against the latest forms of virtual malice. You build your company from the ground up. We'll protect it from the top down.

FREE HP Deskjet 5550 (worth PhP9,300) with purchase of 80 to 100 nodes on a single receipt! Promotion till 31 Dec 2002, valid for Philippine companies only, while stocks last.

McAfee
SECURITY
networkassociates.com

Distributor: Wordtext Systems, Inc. (632) 812 7666 / (632) 810 9301.

McAfee Active VirusScan Suite Small Business Edition and McAfee Active Virus Defense Suite Small Business Edition are registered trademarks of Network Associates, Inc. and/or its affiliates in the US and/or other countries. © 2002 Network Associates Technology, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

ECS wishes you a Merrier Christmas!

FREE Epson C41UX

ECS is giving away a free Epson C41UX Printer for every purchase of I-Buddie 3V or I-Buddie 3C Desknote!

i-Buddie 3V	*i-Buddie 3C*
[A900]	[A901]
VIA C3 1 Giga Pro CPU	Intel Celeron 1.1GHz
13.3" XGA TFT LCD	13.3" XGA TFT LCD
64MB Shared Video Memory	64MB Shared Video Memory
128/256/512MB SDRAM	128/256/512MB SDRAM
10/20/30/40GB Hard Drive	10/20/30/40GB Hard Drive
24X CD-ROM/8X DVD-ROM drive/Combo drive	24X CD-ROM/8X DVD-ROM drive/Combo drive
USB Floppy disk drive	USB Floppy disk drive
Internal Stereo Speakers	Internal Stereo Speakers
Built-in LAN/Modem	Built-in LAN/Modem
4 USB ports,1 S-Video	4 USB ports,1 S-Video
Php 34,950	**Php 38,950**
[10GB HDD, 128MB Memory, 24X CD-ROM]	[10GB HDD, 128MB Memory, 24X CD-ROM]

Exclusive Distributor.
Axis Global Technologies, Inc.
www.axisglobal.com

ECS
www.ecs.com.tw

Promo valid in Metro Manila participating dealers only.*
From Nov. 25 to Dec. 31, 2002

ECS DESKNOTE™
www.desknote.com.tw

Per DTI-NCR Permit # 4800 Series of 2002

LEGAL INFORMATION:
ECS DeskNotes are exclusively distributed in the Philippines by Axis Global Technologies, Inc. DeskNote names, labels, logos and combinations thereof are registered trademarks of Axis Global Technologies, Inc. in the Philippines. Unauthorized and illegal use of DeskNote names, labels and logos is strictly prohibited by the law and shall be dealt with accordingly.

WARNING:
The DeskNote is invented and manufactured by Elitegroup Computer Systems. DeskNote and DeskNote names, labels, logos and combinations thereof are properties of Elitegroup Computer Systems.Protect yourself. Get the best support and warranty for the product. Buy only the original and genuine Desknote. Look for the ECS logo. Beware of clones and imitations.

Epson Stylus C41UX

ECS Desknote is available at all leading computer stores nationwide.

***METRO MANILA PARTICIPATING DEALERS:**
Acccent Micro : SM Megamall/ SM North - Tel: 634-2417/ 927-7330 ; **Ace Net Inc.** : Virramall/ Shangri-La/ SM North - Tel: 725-0762/ 725-0759/ 637-3708/ 426-4278 ; **Computers N Options** : SM North - Tel: 426-5669/426-5672 ; **Gigahertz** : Virramall - Tel: 726-5686 ; **Microstation** : Virramall/ Galleria/ Shangri-La/ SM North - Tel: 721-1252/ 637-1473/ 637-2785/ 928-3502 ; **PC Chain** : Virramall - Tel: 721-3586/ 722-5341 ; **PC Express** : Shaw - Tel: 726-0698/ 726-0682 ; **PC Hub** : Gilmore - Tel: 410-0420 **PC Live** : Megamall/ SM North - Tel: 633-1722/ 925-5688; **PC Specialist** : Gilmore - Tel: 410-3714/ 723-2960 ; **Premium Logic** : SM Megamall/ SM North/ SM Manila/ Galleria - Tel: 687-2136/ 929-2112 ; **Premium PC Depot** : Gilmore - Tel: 721-9383 ; **Prodata** : Sct. Gandia/ P. Tuazon/ Aurora Blvd - Tel: 927-5432/ 414-4336/ 414-4347 ; **Silicon Valley** : SM North/ Megamall/ SM Manila/ SM South Mall/ Park Square/ Alabang - Tel: 927-5698/ 633-1723/ 525-3218/ 806-9293/ 812-6734/ 807-8987 ; **Total Quality Machines**: Vito Cruz/ Taft - Tel: 526-4503/ 536-3245 ; **Universal Computers Systems, Inc.** : Virramall Greenhills - Tel: 721-2407/ 724-8391 ; **Villman Computer Systems, Inc.** : Ayala/Pag-asa/West - Tel: 892-2222/929-0411 ; **Xsite** : Megamall - Tel: 687-2136

Foreign firm sets sights on North Luzon railway

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

A MAJOR North American railway company has trained its sights on taking over the much-delayed North Luzon Railways project designed to enhance Clark and Subic as economic hubs.

A top government official said the firm submitted a letter to Malacañang expressing its keen interest on the envisioned Northrail line that the government wants to put in place by 2005 or 2006.

He said the company was drawn into the project because of its impact on the development of Clark and Subic, two former US military bases that the government took over in the early 1990s.

"The North American firm must be seeing some hidden value in the project that others do not see," the official said.

The Northrail line, which was first broached during the Ramos administration, will provide a rapid transit system between Metro Manila and the Clark airport and extend to the rest of Central Luzon.

The project is expected to complement the construction of the Subic-Clark expressway, which will cut travel time between the two special economic zones down to 30 minutes and lead to the integration of sea and air cargoes.

Two other groups have expressed interest in undertaking the massive infrastructure project.

The original proponent of the project, Spanish rail systems builder Construcciones y Auxiliar de Ferrocarriles, has remained interested in the project either as a builder or supplier or both.

VICTORIAS

VICTORIAS MILLING COMPANY, INC.

NOTICE OF SPECIAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Special Stockholders' Meeting of the **VICTORIAS MILLING COMPANY, INC.** ("VMC") will be held on **Monday, 16 December 2002** at **8:30o'clock in the morning** at the **Metropolitan Club, Inc., Estrella corner Amapola Streets, Guadalupe Viejo, Makati City.**

The Agenda for the meeting is as follows:

1. Call to Order
2. Certification of Notice to Stockholders and Presence of Quorum
3. Election of members of the Board of Directors
4. Confirmation and Ratification of Quasi-Reorganization of All Acts and Deeds Executed to Perfect, Effectuate and Fully Enforce the Terms of the Approved Rehabilitation Plan
5. Other Matters
6. Adjournment

Only stockholders of records as of the close of business hours on 29 November 2002 shall be entitled to notice of, and to vote at this meeting.

For your convenience in registering your attendance, please present any form of identification such as driver's license, passport, voter's I.D., Social Security member card or Taxpayer's Identification Number card. Your duly designated proxy is required to present a copy of the duly executed proxy form. Registration will start at 7:00 a.m. and will close at 8:15 a.m.

Very truly yours,

NILO A. FLORCRUZ (Sgd.)
Corporate Secretary

PLDT sees peaceful end to row over layoffs

By Abigail L. Ho

THE PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. said yesterday it does not expect its union to go on strike even if it retrenches some 500 employees by year's end.

Company officials and union representatives are set to face each other again today before the labor department for a "conciliatory meeting."

After several attempts at trying to work things out between them, both PLDT and the Manggagawa ng Komunikasyon sa Pilipinas have yet to resolve their differences, so a strike may still take place before the end of the year.

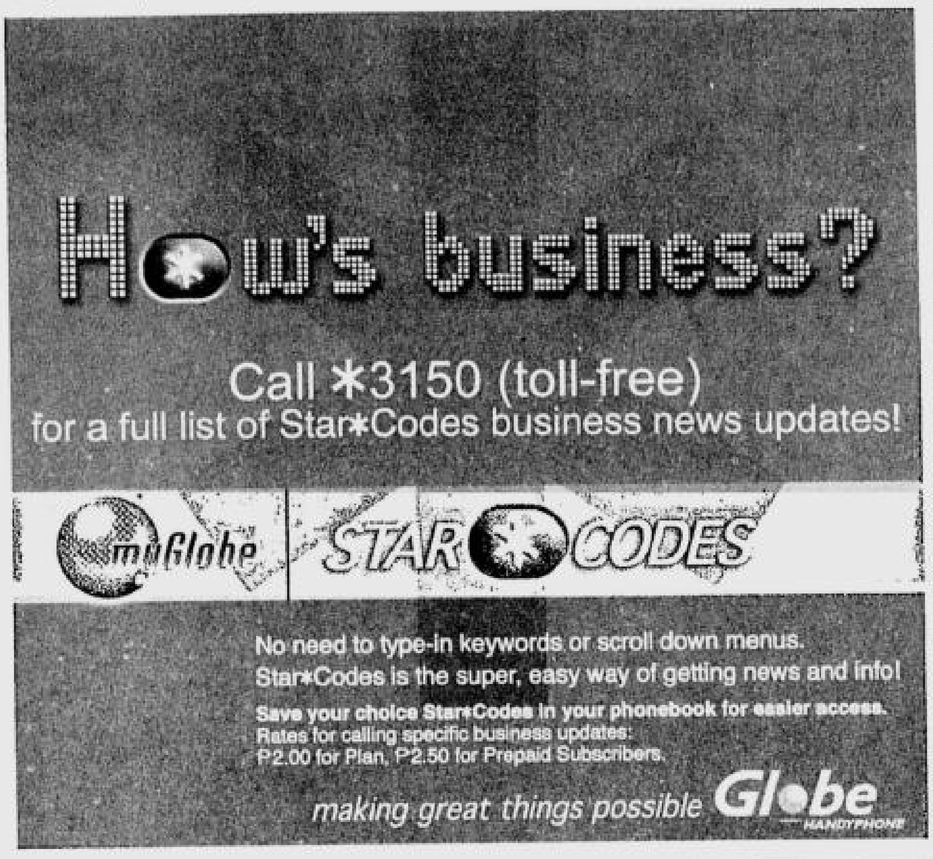
The company said in a statement, however, that today's meeting with the union could eventually lead to a peaceful resolution of their problems.

"We remain hopeful that the matter shall be resolved at the soonest time possible," it said.

The company earlier disclosed it would have to let go of around 500 telephone operators in its regional offices to rationalize its operations, saying the volume of operator-assisted calls had fallen by 75 percent over the last five years.

But Cristy Arca, spokesperson of the breakaway MKP group Samahan ng Manggagawang Progresibo, accused the country's No. 1 telecom firm of tweaking switches to divert operator-assisted calls to other operators who were serving on a contractual or temporary basis.

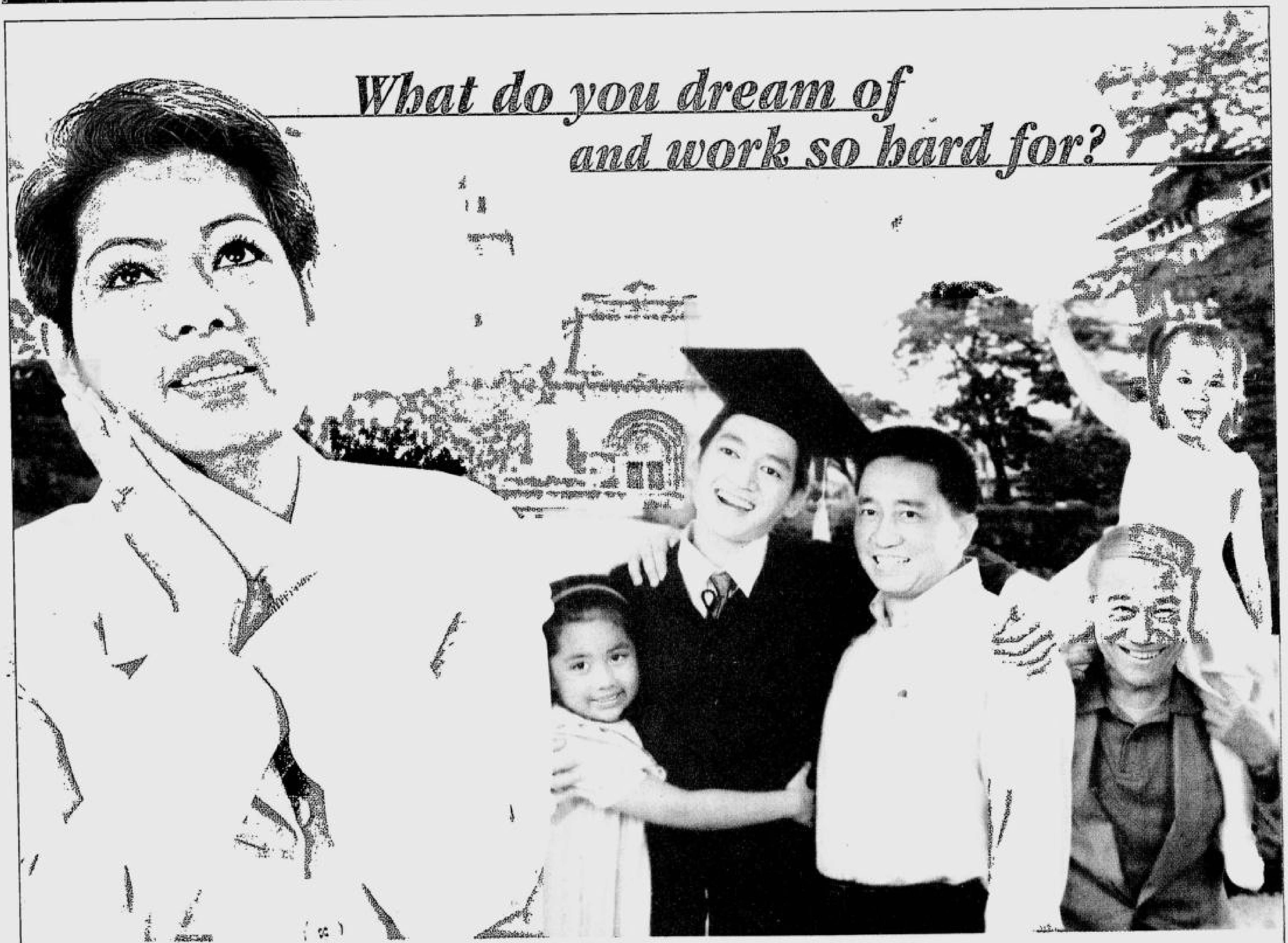
"They're rerouting the calls that are intended to be taken by us to make it appear that we're no longer needed. Even call center operators in its subsidiary ePLDT take calls sometimes," she said in an earlier interview.


How's business?
Call ∗3150 (toll-free)
for a full list of Star∗Codes business news updates!
myGlobe STAR CODES
No need to type-in keywords or scroll down menus.
Star∗Codes is the super, easy way of getting news and info!
Save your choice Star∗Codes in your phonebook for easier access.
Rates for calling specific business updates:
P2.00 for Plan, P2.50 for Prepaid Subscribers.
making great things possible Globe HANDYPHONE

DLSU appeals ruling

DE LA Salle University has asked the Securities and Exchange Commission to reconsider its decision rejecting the school's request to exempt its proposed bond issue from the standard credit rating requirement.

In a letter, Investment and Capital Corp. Philippines president Rommel Leuterio reiterated that its client, DLSU, might not get an appropriate credit rating that would truly reflect its capability to service its financial obligation under the proposed issue.


What do you dream of
and work so hard for?

We all work hard to realize our dreams. One dream is a good education for our children.

But unforeseen circumstances, such as disability or death, can leave dreams unfulfilled. That's why you need Philamlife.

Philamlife is a member company of the American International Group, Inc. (AIG). Being the largest insurance company in the Philippines, our people and our resources work hard to make your dreams come true. Philamlife's insurance products provide you with cash benefits to pay for your children's tuition and other education-related expenses.

Who doesn't have big dreams for their children? With Philamlife, your highest ambitions for them will be possible.

Call us now at 528-2000 and let us help you make your dreams come true.
In Hong Kong, you can call (852) 2591-2218/9472-3130.

Scholar
International Scholar
TRI-LIFE

PHILAM LIFE
Securing Lives. Fulfilling Dreams.
AIG A Member of American International Group, Inc.

PHILAM LIFE PHILAM INSURANCE PHILAM CARE PHILAM PLANS PHILAM SAVINGS BANK PHILAM ASSET MANAGEMENT PHILAM PROPERTIES AIG

Long-term US joblessness on the rise

WASHINGTON—The ranks of Americans unemployed for six months or more are swelling as the economic recovery crawls ahead, a trend not seen since the early 1990s when the job market stagnated even as the economy grew.

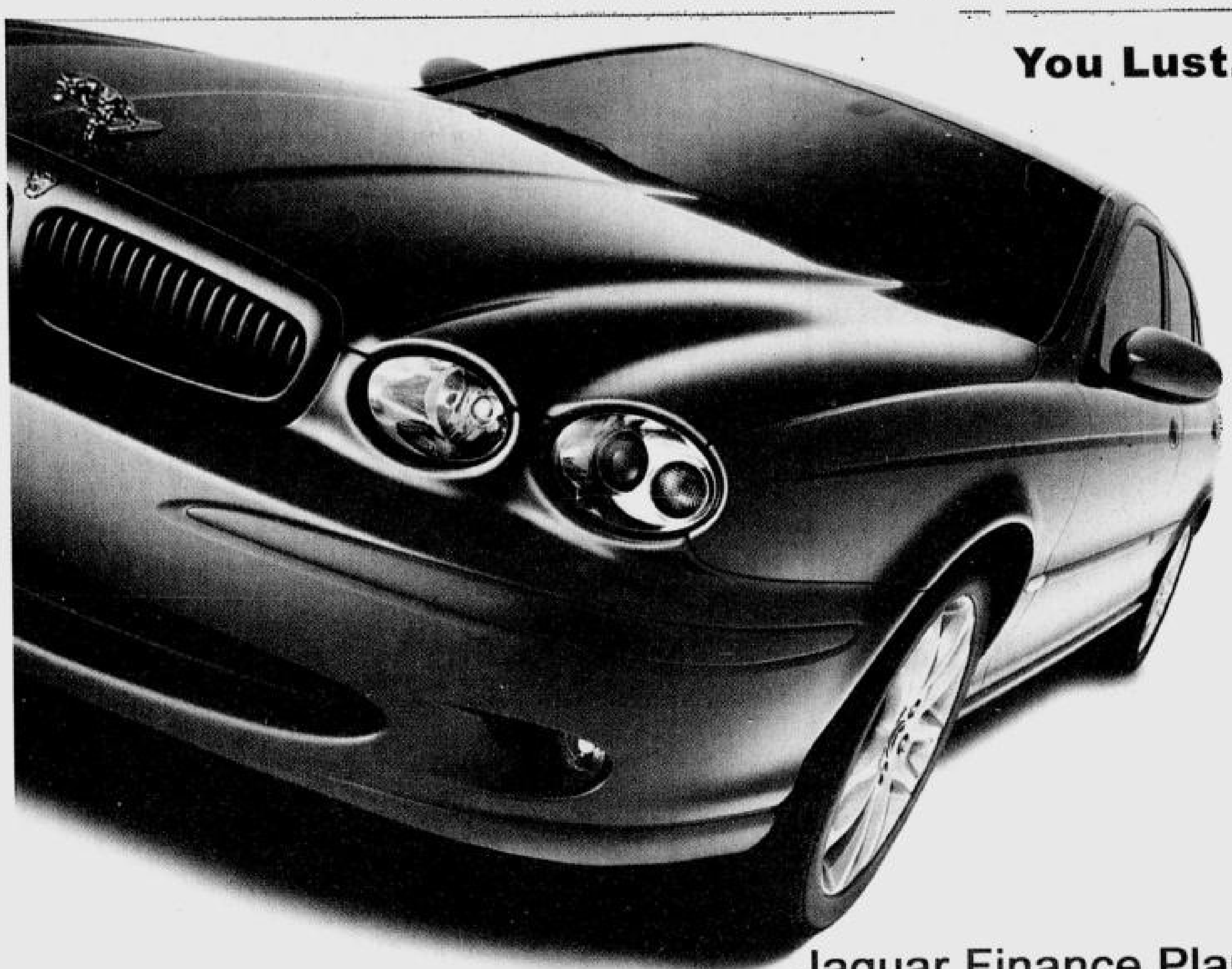
"The pain of the recession is being borne by these workers," said Wendell Primus, director of income security with the liberal-leaning Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, a Washington think tank.

By many measures the US job market, while stalled, has not suffered as much as in previous economic downturns.

Unemployment in October was 5.7 percent, down from a peak of 6.0 percent seen earlier in the year, and has remained in a fairly tight range this year.

While that is sharply higher than the 3.9 percent unemployment seen at the peak of the economic boom that ended in 2001, it's still a level economists just five years ago would have considered practically full employment— the point at which they believed inflation would start rising sharply.

But for those unlucky enough to lose their jobs, the prospects of getting new work quickly have dimmed. *Reuters*



You Lust. We deliver. | the X-Type

V6 engines as standard
for a smoother drive.
Stiffest body in its class
for precision handling.
Jaguar Financial Services
to suit your cash flow.

NEW VEHICLE
3-Year
100,000 km.
WARRANTY

Ownership begins at 2.1 M
Jaguar Finance Plans start at **P 26,214/mo.***
*P 26,214 net monthly amortization for 60 months on 2.0 Entry model with SRP of P2,100,000 and 50% DP.
Subject to credit approval. Promo lasts until December 23, 2002.

X-TYPE
The art of performance | JAGUAR

Available only in the Jaguar Showroom:
ENZO Building, 399 Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City
Tel. 897-8888; E-mail. sales@jaguar.com.ph

Jaguar Service Center:
2112-B Primo Rivera corner Ponte Sts., Makati City
Tel. 895-1836; E-mail. service_ctr@jaguar.com.ph

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A1-644 Series of 2002.

Successful people don't have

left overs.

They maximize things.
They put every part of everything to good use.
They turn what seems to be trash into treasure.
They know no left-overs.

Before, they'd have been called scrooges.
Today, they're called successful.

Because they don't like waste, they get the best value for their hard-earned money.

No one understands this better than Robinsons Bank.
The only bank backed by the financial stability of JG Summit.

METRO MANILA BUSINESS CENTERS

Main Office	#638-3173 to 86/631-2706
Libis	#913-1579/1517/3564
San Miguel, Octagon	#637-6165/636-3075/3074
Strata	#689-1133/636-7436
Katipunan	#433-2652/426-5604
Pasig - Metro East	#249-1172/1173/1174/1175
Annapolis	#721-4492/4379/725-8133
Gamboa	#893-0395/892-5801
Shell Salcedo	#813-5952/5946/5978
Tomas Morato	#412-7980/7981/372-4062
Novaliches	#935-3409/3412/3414
Binondo	#242-4443/4444/4413
Ermita	#536-1137/1138/1139
Ermita In-Store	#525-0254/0255
Tutuban	#253-7858/4412/4326
Alabang	#772-1565/850-9529

Every peso you entrust to us is a drop of sweat, a minute's overtime.

That's why we at Robinsons Bank will take care of your money with the same focus and determination you brought to earning it.

Drop by one of our branches.
Let's talk about your dreams.
And how to get there.

PROVINCIAL BUSINESS CENTERS

Baguio	#(074)443-8313 to 16
Dagupan	#(075)523-4134/4021/522-7445
San Fernando - Pampanga	#(045)961-5625/9659
Cebu	#(032)253-8857/8849
Bacolod	#(034)441-2371/2372
Iloilo	#(033)336-9577/9037/3625
Davao	#(082)226-3564 to 67
Cagayan De Oro	#(08822)723-910/722-046
San Pablo	#(049)562-1043/0711
Imus	#(046)875-2331/2332/2333
Naga	#(054)472-4554 to 47

RobinsonsBank
A Savings Bank

Where Your Hard-earned Money Grows.

MegaLink Member of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation
Deposits insured up to P100,000.00.

A JG Summit Company

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DIVISION

Main Office: PASONG TAMO, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8972535 (Direct) ☎ 8978808 (Trunk) Fax 8974808
G/F ATRIUM BLDG., MAKATI AVENUE, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8114361 ☎ 8114370 ☎ 8114012 Fax 8925578
ST. ANTHONY'S BLDG., AURORA BLVD., QUEZON CITY
☎ 912-9008-11 Fax 912-9011
SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6872354 ☎ 6872366 Fax 6350220
G/F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
☎ 5273342 ☎ 5280183 ☎ 5276357 Fax 5280213
ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA CITY
☎ 8424503 ☎ 8506465 Fax 8506465.
e-mail address: main_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS

The Widest Reaching Classifieds

RATES

P230 per column centimeter

P65 per line

(All prices exclusive of E-VAT)

DEADLINES

for reservations / cancellations / corrections

Mondays to Saturdays
12:00 noon
Day before publication

Sundays
12:00 noon
every Thursday

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

MEDICAL

PHYSICIAN/SURGEON

• MAKATI POLYCLINIC • STD Skin Pregtest Mense Prob Repair Makati Medical Plaza Rm.811 810-1366

MKT STDPROSTATE CENTER SKIN WARTS IMPOTENCE RM 46 2178 P. Tamo 8175071

RAPID Tx VD-STD
SCARS Ex SWEAT ALLERGIES
DERMA PEEL WARTS KELOID
15 Annapolis, Greenhills
Call 7276124to25 9am-7pm

PERSONAL

ARCHITECTS

DESIGN BUILD
Call 633-7485

COSMETOLOGY

FACIAL SKINCARE
TRAINING/WORKSHOP
DEC 7 (SAT) 9AM-4PM
8956031 L2011 / 8971832
TEXT US 0919 589 6551

HEALTH/FITNESS

Weight Less
Call 521-9683 / 0917-4770408

MASSAGE

3233269 BOYSPOT

EXECUTIVE MASSAGE
OPENS 24 HRS.
Tel. # 719-0827 Cel#
(0916)500-0931/(0917)664-1066

★ BONG 0920-2624192 ★

HUNKSTOUCH 0920-5182552

JAMES MALE 24HRS SERVICE 8518650 ; 0916-4590734

JV MALE MASSUER 24hrs 09202387878 ;7130279

MALE 16 PALANAN 7320659

MALE SPA 562 BANAUE 7411426

THAI MASGE Baguio&Cebu 09174116004 Mla8347357 50% Off

VIP-M/F-24H-SVC 851-9937 Romy

M/M SERVS M/F-24H 4727647-JR

VIP-M-09192714842 ANJO

X-STALLION 8325228

REFLEXOLOGY

Edward 7289285 09193365411

FEELS GOOD
REFLEX CNTR 4127750/4134027

Jason 3rd Massage 4216876

H-H-MS MALE 7314018

JOJO HHMSRellex 0919-4775476

Wizard Massage 4213197

TUTORIAL LESSONS

• LIGHT 5301315 5268216 •

MISCELLANEOUS

Guides 24H • 0917-8912920

HOUSEHOLD

HOUSEHOLD JOBS

IDEAL MAIDS YAYA 732-6750

Good Maid Yaya Driver 8709384

Help Agency 532-1947 • 532-8376

IVYLANA Manpower Services
MAID YAYA NURSE MIDWIFE
TUTOR 926-8904 433-1431

MAID / BOY / YAYA 4107388

Maid Yaya Boy Intl Cook 7572089

PACIFIC: MAIDS, ETC SINCE 1948 T:7312672

ANGEL'S HANDS MAIDS W/NBI&BI 8834270 4213253

TRAINED MAID w/NBI Bisaya Ilocano 2927926 2776698

TRUSTED KASAMBAHAY 7423378

TRUSTED QUALITY MAIDS W/NBI & BI 421-3828

Yaya Midwife Nurse Maid Lava Cook 8957507/8708799

LIPAT BAHAY

L-BAHAY 9206784 4540520

•CHEAP LBAHAY 9260424•

L-BAHAY 712-16-92

LBahay7433225

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

PERSONAL

CONSTRUCTION/ DESIGN

WELLHOME VENTURES & DEVELOPMENT INC.
ATTN: LOT OWNERS
HOUSE CONSTRUCTION - NO DOWNPAYMENT
FREE: DESIGN, ESTIMATE, PERMITS
OWNS 3 HARDWARE (CALABARZON)
324-1549; 324-1548; 361-5551

HOUSEHOLD

LIPAT BAHAY

LIPAT BAHAY Tel. 805-3362

P900/TRIP 7421457

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

COMM'L/RESDL

PASIG

418sqm 5Dr 2Sty Apt. frnt College T-6414589, 09175372340

6.4Has Pasig 10 mins. to Ortigas T-6414589, 09175372340

QUEZON CITY

FILINVEST
3BR 2TB 2Sty HSE & LOT
ALDEA VERDE
QUEZON CITY
MISSION HILLS
ANTIPOLO
CLASSIC ESTATE
PARANAQUE
NO DOWN ON LOT ONLY
697-5973 • 630-6189

VARIED AREAS

Mktl Avignon P18-65M Pacific Plaza P26M Bayview P4M Es-ensa Frbes P22M Dsma P78M Ocean Tower P5.2M Pioneer P1.8M Bay Gardens Roxas Blvd RFO 1-3BR Peni 0916-8594925

HOUSE & LOT

MANILA

SN ANDRES MLA
NR SSHIWAY Bnew
Twnhse/3stry/3br/3tb/grge/maid
P2.745M up 8903461 loc 34

PASIG

★VV66BR/6TB26M4121825★

QUEZON CITY

980T only 260m² nr Rbinson SM Fview 4174368; 09206022995

L280m² APO St Cor Lot Sta Mesa Hgts 9298376

L600m² GSIS VIII Proj. 8 QC 6br w/4car 5t&b 9298376

★W.Plains 4br/Den 14M 4121825

RIZAL

★ RUSH SALE★
P2.3M Antipolo Subd 240m² w/grotto bar tab & furnitures
★CLEAN TITLE★
Direct buyer only! 6875401
0917-4574040/ 0917-9113768

CAVITE

★DASMA BUNGALOW la88 fa32 PAGIBIG 4104577

LAGUNA

STA ROSA 3T/mo T 9390289

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

BURGUNDY CORP. TOWER
AVAIL 10% & UP DISCOUNT
OFC / COMML / RES
UNITS 4 SALE / LEASE
HURRY, A FEW UNITS LEFT
894-4516 / 5048

C5 Nr The Fort 1.6M
12T/mo. or 3Yrs No Int. or 10% D.P. LIPAT AGAD 3-5BR 15min Fr Mktl 0917-8169849

MANILA

250 sqm 5Door Townhse Near U.S.T. 0917-4149898

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

HOUSE & LOT

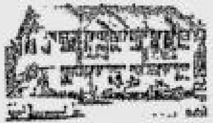
OTHER AREAS

WESTVILLE HOMES
Ligas, Bacoor, Cavite
Initial DP: P 15,000

COASTAL WOODS VILLAGE
Ligas, Bacoor, Cavite
Initial DP: P 25,000

CASIMIRO TOWNHOMES
Habay, Bacoor, Cavite
Initial DP: P 15,000

VILLA FELIZA HOMES
Alabang Zapote Rd., Las Piñas City
Initial DP: P 25,000



FORTE REALTY
871-8318 776-4604
871-3249 541-2761
829-5081 780-4014
810-8019 815-2144
810-7183
0916-5598338
Welcome Brokers & Agents
forterealty@skylinet.net

CONDO/TWNHSE

MANILA

NR LA SALLE TAFT
Twnhse/3stry/3br/3tb/grge
P3.618M 8903461 loc 34

MANDALUYONG

WACK-WACK CONDOS
534-6610 • Jojo

PARANAQUE

SUCAT 3BR 3TB 820-4520

PASIG

2BR Crisanta Tower Near Ultra Call 0917-4149898

QUEZON CITY

CUBAO Condo 1.4M 9132224

Fornandina 88 100sqm 5M 3br 2tb FF • 0917-2429078

★METRO GREEN VILLE la60 fa50 amenities 4104577

Milen Bldg.A 1.4M 4538746

Nr Ateneo P3M 09164339473

ReSale Eastwood City Stdio 123BR 0917-4149898

TWNHSE NEAR UP/ATENEO FA210M² 3BR 2CAR GRGE BESIDE GOLF 0917-8940482

RIZAL

AYALA-ANTIPOLO
P 1.6-7M 2-5BR 20%DP or P12T LA150-250SQM nr La Salle /Assumption • 0917-831-3226

VARIED AREAS

AYALA Projects
- AYALA HILLSIDE (Q.C.)
  Subdivision lots w/in golf course
- ONE ROXAS TRIANGLE
  RFO, 5 YRS w/o interest
- ONE LEGAZPI PARK
  Near Greenbelt & Glorietta
- AYALA GREENFIELD(South)
  Free Golf Share per Lot!
- AYALA WESTGROVE(South)

As low as 16T monthly

Call AGNES
(Ayala Land Sales, Inc.)
#0917-8435382

QUEZON CITY

RUSH SALE! 4sty. 6drs/res 2drs comm'l 7812493-94

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE

QUEZON CITY

One BEATRIZ Tower
1st Class COMM.-OFFICE RES'L CONDO
AURORA /LAUAN ST., PROJ. 3, Q.C.

READY FOR OCCUPANCY
FOR SALE OR LEASE

NEAR ATENEO • UP • MIRIAM • KOSTKA • PSBA • NCBA
1st CLASS AMENITIES
R-Top S. Pool, Gym, Sauna & Etc.
W/ X'LENT VIEW 360°
MOVE-IN FOR ONLY 10% DP
TO SEE... IS TO BELIEVE
MASTER C RE-DE, INC.
TEL# 913-5223/921-4883 922-4464/913-7632

COMM'L/RESDL

ERA
LEASE TO OWN
FOR AS LOW AS 12T A MONTH
GREENHILLS/MANDALUYONG
- Governor's Place
- Wack Wack condo
- Gilmore Heights
- San Francisco Gardens

BOHOL AVE./CAPITOL HILLS, Q.C.
- El Jardin del Presidente
- Golf Hill Terraces

BETH 0917-8447940
867-8913 to 17
www.ERAphilippines.com
A Global Network with Over 3,000 Offices Worldwide

LOT

PASIG

★Ortigas Ctr 1700m² 4121825

★GMeadows 980m² Smith 4121825

QUEZON CITY

• A CHANCE TO OWN !! •NEAR UP ATENEO MIRIAM! 473-714M² 09175320224 DBD

★AMPARO 30m²@P2500 nr SM Lagro 4104577

★ AYALA HILLS QC ★
2 yrs To Pay! NO INTEREST
370-740 Fairway Lots

★ Ferndale QC ★
Ayala Lots 204-290 @ P9700 & up Hses @ P6.5M & up Terms near Golesco QC

★ Tierra Pura★
Hses & Lots P9M & up Vac. 230-700m² @ P9000/m² & up
- DON JOSE Gateway to Fairview 420m² P5500/sqm
- CAPITOL HOMES 450/sqm @ P8000sqm with view

BANEZ 931-9117 / 931-9160

LOYOLA GRAND VILLAS choise lots w/ view VISTA VERDE 2sty conc P4.2M 929-1832 • 426-5650

RIZAL

76.5m² San Mateo 948-6922

OTHER AREAS

★SUBIC 48has@200/m² nego w/fruit trees0916-3741571

BATANGAS

•LIPA FARM 09164339473

CAVITE

Tagaytay Res. / Comm. LOT 580 & 594sqm Adj. Lots Infront Mahogany Mkt 09178990836

TAGUIG

FT BONI 400 SQM 9282497

PROVINCIAL

Rare Investment opportunity
Affordability and Value at
Cavite Light Industrial Park
Ideally located along Maguyam Road Carmona Cavite
Phase 1 ready for occupancy
Phase II pre-selling easy terms
24 months to pay at ZERO interest
Call MERLE 636-0111 or 634-2956

FARM/FISHPEN/ RAWLANDS

1.3HA RICEFIELD CANAMAN CAM.SUR 6460768 PERLA

★SUBIC 48has@200/m² nego, w/fruit trees 047-9134120

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

RESORT

ZAMBALES,Develop Undev 0919-3279260

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

HOUSE

ALABANG

HOUSE 4 RENT AAV 3BDRMS 3TB F/F TEL 8071133 P 60T

LAS PINAS

Philam Vill 27 Davao Street New 2Sty 4BR 3TB 2Car Grg w/ Maids Room & TB 40T 8716775

CONDO/TWNHSE

ALABANG

ASPEN TOWER 1BDRM F/F P45T TEL 8071133

MAKATI

2BR Mkt P8200mo 8388487

4 BEDROOMS CONDO
For Lease
Rizal Tower
Rockwell Makati
Call: 8982416 or
Email: plam1a@yahoo.com

BRAND NEW STUDIO
very clean w/security guard Impressive lobby w/ elevator P7.5T no association dues no rent increase for 2 years 1672 Dian St Mktl nr Buendia Call Rose
8439418 • 5369509

MANDALUYONG

★P.Hiland 2BR 3.4M 4121825

★Philland Std15T All-In 4121825

PARANAQUE

2BDRM 2TB P10T TEL 8071133 BF HOMES PARANAQUE

PASIG

ASTORIA PLAZA ORTIGAS
Full Serviced Residences
FOR SALE OR LEASE
1-2Br. w/Rest.. Deli, Pool, Gym, Spa Functions Rms. Business Ctr.
Tel 687-2363 / 910-0372

Valle Verde6 1BR • 8109314

QUEZON CITY

Condotel in T.Morato QC 1BR Furn Nice & Cozy P1200/nite 0917-5341014

Nr Munoz Market Edsa 3br2tb P13500/mo. 414-5596 Neth

SAN JUAN

G'HILLS 1BR 5268048

★PL 1BR 20T All-In 4121825

VARIED AREAS

Condo QC / Rm Mktl Area 8156172

APARTMENT

KALOOCAN

163 BRIONES 7 AVE 3665197 2.8T

LAS PINAS

2BR Nr UPHR T8743395

MANILA

5 Units Apt. Sta. Mesa U/D 7154506

Studio Fully Furn Malate nr DLSU ST. SCHO, PGH, PWU 523-5465

PARANAQUE

2BR MNWLK #5275941/5241305

QUEZON CITY

CUBAO Female P3.5 9124428

Sikatuna 1BR P5T 9287728

ROOM & BOARD

Twin/Triple Sharing w/ A/C TB nr DLSU, ST.SCHO, PWU 523-5465

BEDSPACE

Resdn'l/Clean/Furnis/Male/ 2PerRm/SingleBd T897-3770

The WOMEN'S HEALTH & SAFE MOTHERHOOD PROJECT-PARTNERSHIPS COMPONENT

a project of the Government of the Philippines, executed by the Department of Health with funding support from the European Union (EU)

The WHSMP-PC works in close collaborations with its Partners, the DOH Centers for Health Development, LGUs and NGOs, to improve the health status of women through the use of community health development techniques, which enable women at the barangay level identify and articulate their health needs and be involved in developing and implementing plans to achieve positive changes for health

The Project has been granted a 15 month Extension, is now seeking highly qualified and experienced

Finance and Administration Section Chief

The person we are seeking: will have qualifications, preferably at a post graduate level, in Commerce, Business Management or other relevant area of study, with at least 5 years experience in senior roles in the various aspects of administrative and financial management. They will be responsible for the supervision and management of the Projects financial and administrative activities of the regional office, and will demonstrate initiative, a strong commitment to excellence and a well developed sense of responsibility and integrity. A CPA license would be an advantage.

Please Note: This position is based in Butuan

INCENTIVES INCLUDE: Basic salary equivalent to SG 22, 13th month pay, medicare, annual leaves, plus others

ONLY INDIVIDUALS WHO MEET THE ABOVE QUALIFICATIONS SHOULD APPLY.

Interested and Qualified Applicants should submit their letter of response and a comprehensive resume by email or fax on or before December 2, 2002 to:

THE HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGER
Women's Health Project—Partnerships Component
5B Osmeña Bldg., 1991 Mabini St.
Malate, Manila
Fax: (632) 536-6406 E-mail: whsm-pc@pacific.net.ph

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Social Welfare and Development
Batasan Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hills
Quezon City
Telephone No. 931-8101 to 07

NOTICE OF VACANCIES

In compliance with the provisions of RA 7041, the Department of Social Welfare and Development has the following vacant positions:

(1) **LEGAL OFFICER V, SG-24, WITH ITEM NO. OSEC-DSWDB-LEGO5-1-1998 (Legal Management Division)**

EDUC. REQUIREMENTS	: Bachelor of Laws;
EXP. REQUIREMENTS	Two (2) years in position/s involving management and supervision;
TRNG. REQUIREMENTS	8 hours training in management and supervision
ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENT	RA 1080 (BAR)

(1) **LEGAL OFFICER IV, SG-22, WITH ITEM NO. OSEC-DSWDB-LEGO4-1-1998 (Legal Assistance Division)**

EDUC. REQUIREMENTS	Bachelor of Laws;
EXP. REQUIREMENTS	one (1) year of relevant experience;
TRNG. REQUIREMENTS	four (4) hours of relevant training;
ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENT	RA 1080 (BAR)

(1) **HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT OFFICER V, SG-24, WITH ITEM NO. OSEC-DSWDB-HRMO8-2-1998 (Career Planning & Development Division)**

EDUC. REQUIREMENTS	Masteral Degree;
EXP. REQUIREMENTS	4 years in position/s involving management and supervision;
TRNG. REQUIREMENTS	24 hours of training on management and supervision;
ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENT	CS Professional; Second Level Eligibility

(1) **HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT OFFICER IV, SG-22 WITH ITEM NO. OSEC-DSWDB-HRMO4-2 1998 (Carreer Planning & Development Division)**

EDUC. REQUIREMENTS	Bachelor's degree relevant to the job;
EXP. REQUIREMENTS	3 years of relevant experience;
TRNG. REQUIREMENTS	16 hours of relevant training;
ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENT	CS Professional; Second Level Eligibility

(1) **DIRECTOR III, SG-27, WITH ITEM NO. OSEC-DSWDB-DIR3-9-1998 (Human Resource Development Service)**

EDUC. REQUIREMENTS	: Bachelor's Degree;
EXP. REQUIREMENTS	3 years of supervisory experience;
TRNG. REQUIREMENTS	none required;
ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENT	Career Service Executive Eligibility (CSEE)/Career Executive Service (CEE)

Interested applicants may submit their application together with their comprehensive curriculum vitae to Undersecretary Luwalhati F. Pablo, Office of the Undersecretary for General Administration and Support Services Group.

(Sgd.) GUILLERMA E. FLORES
Director
Administrative Service

(PDI - Nov. 27 & Dec. 1, 2002)

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

BUSINESS RENTAL

CORINTHIAN PLAZA
OFFICE SPACE AVAILABLE 380 SQM, 250 SQM GRND FLR. FOR INQUIRIES CALL 811-31-83/811-32-80

OFFICE SHOP or RESIDENCE Bo. Kapitolyo 0917-4149898

LOAN & MORTGAGE

2% w/o TAKING CAR 3677523/24

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

12/F Belvedere Twr. Ortigas Ctr. Very Affordable P10T/mo. Inclusive 633-3910, 633-3909

★Jollibee Plaza 109.19sqm w/ Lites Aircon very nice 4121825

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE OR RENT

CONDO/TWHSE/ FOR SALE/RENT

Mkt. Studio/2BR 10T up/No Due Free Prkg/H2O Tel/Secu 8906374

QUEZON CITY

XVILLE2 Townhse 2-Sty 2BIG BR / TB maidsrm grge P15T/mo 8906294

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

BMW

BMW 316I 96 Model
680T Neg. • 0917-2429078

BMW 3201
1997 First Owner
Silver Full Auto
750T call 434-1809

FORD

74 MUSTANG T:526-8048

HYUNDAI

2001 HYUNDAI ATOZ 238t very cute like echo can test drive anytime 7317984/6550

99KIA PREGIO 345T 7316550

Grace 199t, 97H-100 225t 98Starex 475t,'01Starex 590t all power Free LTO registra'n Financing OK! 7317984/6550

KIA

96BESTA 145T ASIS 7317984

MERCEDES

MB E320'94, A/T SUNROOF MINT GREEN CALL: 3656149

MITSUBISHI

MIT PAJERO '00 A/T WHITE CALL: 3656149

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

NISSAN

4WD VANET DSL 9267433

97SENTRA SS 278T 7317984

TOYOTA

96FX w/ comp. accessories 948-6922 / 09194743688

OTHER CAR BRANDS

★ IMPORTED VAN★
MB100D•Pregio•Topic
Grace•H100 360-9523

Pre- Christmas Sale! with WARRANTY
★Pajero, Delica, Vans
★Serena, Caravan, Largo
★Land Cruser VX, H-Ace
★Nissan Terrano, Surf, etc.
★Trucks all models
All units A1 conditioned
No hidden extra cost
Quality convertion
Customer satisfaction guaranteed
ACROSS MARKETING
#40 Sumulong Hiway Mambugan, Antipolo City 6822858 /66/09189348605

CARS

SPECIAL CARS

PAJERO VANETTE TROOPER TON-HI ACE SAFARI SURF DELICA ESTIMA MU TERRANO PRADO ESCUDO SIZUKI ELF CANTER ETC A1 w/warranty 9126976 09178342020 GLEN

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

SPECIAL CARS

TROOPER PAJERO VANETTE SAFARI SURF HI-TOWN ACE TERRANO MU DELICA ESTIMA PRADO ESCUDO SUZUKI ELF CANTER ETC STREETMASTER 2179 TAFT AVE NR CARTIMAR

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

L3•Cars• 9273453 4538295

Starex MB100 Coaster Bus • Call 631-3496

ABC CARS/VANS
NEW MODEL ALL BRANDS
SELFDRIVE OR WITH DRIVER
MANILA 536-8822 • 303-9789
TIMOG Q.C. 426-2278 • 426-4084

★Vans Coaster Bus 440-9171

FCU CAR RENTAL
U DRIVE OR W/DRIVER
HONDA VAN LANCER
Tel 410-1398 / 722-8438

HI-ACE L-300 9296250

UDRIVE W/DRIVER
CARS MATIC/MANUAL
HIACE REVO COSTER 4X4 ETC
8908667 • 8908668 • 8908669
www.avalonrentacar.com

L300 T7411356

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

L300/Vans 578-8917 (Roger)

MARIAN CARS BRIDAL VANS CSTER 8957247/8969956

MB STAREX HIACE 8276605

P800/L3 9136710/4333682

REVO w/driver 9272821

TOYCO-SELF DRIVE OR W/ DRIVER CAR/VAN 8006595

VAN 4 RENT 8254058 8261045

WANTED TO BUY

BUYING USED CARS 8990215

CAR LOAN

1.5 % EasyCarLoan 4000166 -67

1.5% FAST CAR LOAN 6560140

1.5% FAST CAR LOAN 7262780

1.5% FAST CAR LOAN 3877523/24

2% w/o Taking Car 8966633

2% w/o Taking Car 7228942/43

2% w/o Taking Car 8870490/95

2% w/oTaking Car 3646928

2% w/oTaking Car 7221024

2% w/oTaking Car 3732081-82

Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA)
Almeda Bldg., Roxas Blvd. cor. San Luis St., Pasay City
Tel. Nos. 551-3443 / 891-6423, Telefax 551-9587
Website: www.peza.gov.ph

PEZA

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

1. The Philippine Economic Zone Authority (**"THE OWNER"**) invites all interested bidders to register and to apply for eligibility and to bid for the Supply of Equipment and Materials for the following Power Distribution Systems:

Mactan Economic Zone — Distribution Line Hardwares and Various Tools
— Retrofitting and Replacement of the Existing OCB with Vacuum Circuit Breaker
— Power Capacitors, Disconnecting Switch and Upgrading of Metering System

Bataan Economic Zone — Installation, Test and Commissioning of 3 units 69 KV SF6 Power Circuit Breaker
— 2 Assemblies of Metalclad Switchgears

2. The Approved Budget for the Contract is PhP27.564 M.
3. Bidding Documents may be secured by registered bidders from **November 25 to 29, 2002** at the ***Office of the Deputy Director General for Finance and Administration, 3rd Floor Almeda Building Philippine Economic Zone Authority, Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis St., Pasay City,*** upon payment of non-refundable fee of Three Thousand Pesos (Php3,000.00).
4. To be registered with the OWNER, Interested Bidders must submit the following documents (in case of photocopied documents, the original must be presented):
   a) DTI Registration of Business Name of SEC Registration Certificate, whichever may be appropriate under existing laws of the Philippines;
   b) Mayor's permit / municipal license;
   c) Taxpayer's Identification Number;
   d) Statement of the prospective bidder that it is not "blacklisted" or barred from bidding by any government agency, office or corporation, including non-inclusion in the "blacklist" of contractors issued by the Construction Industry Authority of the Philippines (CIAP);
   e) Notarized affidavit certifying under oath that each documents submitted is an original copy or a true and faithful reproduction or copy of the original.
5. Submission of eligibility documents in four (4) copies must be received in sealed envelopes on or before ***3:00 p.m. of 09 December 2002*** and addressed to ***The Office of the Deputy Director General for Finance and Administration, 3rd Floor Almeda Building Philippine Economic Zone Authority, Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis St., Pasay City.***
6. Time and date of **Pre-Bid Conference**, as well as the **Submission and Opening of Bids** shall be indicated in the **Notice of Eligibility.**
7. The BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or informality, assume no obligations whatsoever or indemnify to the bidder any expense or loss that it may incur in the preparation of its bid, and to accept the bid most advantageous to the Government. The provision of Executive Order No. 40 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations shall apply to this bidding process.

(Sgd.) CHAIRMAN
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – Nov. 20 & 27, 2002)

GIA

Thailand Campus

Learn about Gems & Jewelry

From the world's foremost authority in gemology
70 year history of excellence in education
over 300,000 students worldwide

GIA Graduate Gemologist Diploma
the most recognized gemological credential

G.G. Program starts January 13, 2003

GIA Thailand Campus

Tel: (662) 237-9575 / 77 Fax: (662) 236-9829
giathai@ksc15.th.com www.giathailand.com

HMC

A Night With HMC

HMC Clubhotel Philippines, Inc. is scouting for experienced telemarketers who have previously sold hotel membership in the Philippines. This gives you an opportunity to market the best hotel properties in town and be part of our dynamic team.

If you are the one we are looking for, we are inviting you to join us as we hold a night with HMC at the Garcia Villa Balagtas Ballroom at Manila Peninsula on December 3, 2002 at 7 PM.

To find out more call:

Jessica at (02) 843-2855 / 843-2909
Donna or Jamie at (02) 845-1387
Marishell at (02) 636-9033
Monday to Friday between
9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
2:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Quezon City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA) invites all interested insurance service contractors of Life Insurance Companies and Health Maintenance Organizations to apply for eligibility, to bid and to service the NFA's 2003 Group Insurance Programs as follows:

Programs	No. Of Employees/Officials	Approved Budget
Group Hospitalization	4,418	P10,760,230.00
Group Term Life	4,706	5,523,933.00
Group Accident	4,706	1,854,160.00
Executive Health Care	134	949,256.00
Total		P19,087,579.00

The schedule of bidding activities is as follows:

November 27-December 6, 2002	Issuance and Submission of Registration Requirements
December 9-10, 2002	Notification of Registered Bidders and Issuance of Bid Documents
December 11, 2002 (10:00 AM)	**Pre-bidding Conference**
January 3, 2003 (9:00-10:30 AM)	Submission of Eligibility Requirements and Bid Proposals
10:45 AM)	Opening of Eligibility Requirements and Bid Proposals

Registration and eligibility requirements can be secured from and submitted to BAC Secretariat, ODAFA, 7th Floor Matimyas Building, 101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City. Bidding documents may likewise be secured from BAC Secretariat and the same shall be issued to duly registered bidders upon payment of P2,000.00, non-refundable fee.

NFA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY/INFORMALITY OF THE BIDS RECEIVED AND TO ACCEPT ONLY SUCH BIDS WHICH ARE ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY.

(Sgd.) PEDRO S. HERNANDO, JR.
Deputy Administrator & Chairman, BAC

(PDI - Nov. 27 & Dec. 4, 2002)

Looking for a Career in Broadcasting?

A nationwide broadcast network expanding its operations is in need of the following:

! ANCHORS
! NEWSCASTERS

Qualifications:
- Male or Female
- Not more than 30 years old
- Good voice quality is a must
- College graduate

! PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS / NEWS WRITERS

Qualifications:
- Journalism / Masscomm graduate
- 6 months related work experience

As these are URGENT requirements, all interested applicants are requested to personally submit their updated resumé from **Monday to Friday, 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM** to HRM Department.

5th flr., Citystate Centre,
709 Shaw Blvd., Brgy. Oranbo, Pasig City
637-3965 to 70
E-mail: taongyaman@edsamail.com.ph;
Website: www.aliw.com.ph

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
CENTRAL OFFICE
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

Bldg. #3, SAN LAZARO COMPOUND
RIZAL AVENUE, STA. CRUZ
MANILA, PHILIPPINES
TEL. NO. (632) 743-83-01 LOCAL 1335
TELEFAX NO. 743-72-36

20 November 2002

INVITATION FOR BIDS
IFB NO. 2002-12-11 (8)

The Department of Health hereby invites sealed written bids for 2,700 PCS. SENTRONG SIGLA SEAL, with an approved budget of Three Million Nine Hundred Fifteen Thousand Philippine Pesos only chargeable against BLHD funds.

A complete set of bidding documents may be obtained by interested bidders at the PLS, Bldg. No. 26, DOH upon payment of *non-refundable fee of Two Housand Pesos* upon submission of authenticated Mayor's Permit and Business Name from *November 25 to December 9, 2002* 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday.

A *pre-bidding conference* will be held at the BHDT Conference Room, Bldg. #24, DOH at 1:00 p.m. on November 27, 2002.

Bids must be submitted to the BHDT Conference Room at *1:00 p.m. on December 11, 2002.* All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of Forty Thousand Pesos in the form of cash, certified/ cashier's/ manager's check and bank draft/guarantee confirmed by a reputable local bank, valid for one hundred twenty days from the date of bid opening.

The DOH reserves the right to accept or reject any bid and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to award of contract without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds to the DOH.

By Authority of the Secretary of Health:

(Sgd.) ZENAIDA O. LUDOVICE, M.D., MPH, CESO II
Assistant Secretary & COBAC Chairperson

(PDI – Nov. 20 & 27, 2002)

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

GARAGE SALE

GARAGE / WAREHOUSE SALE NOV. 28 TEL 5685777-80

JEWELRY

ANY ROLEX
and Other Swiss Watches
Buy / Sell / Pawn / Repair
Tel# 804-0484 • 834-2886

OTHER EQUIPMENT

CARSHOP BLDG EQUIPMENTS & TOOLS in one pls call Remy tel no 032-4203246 cell# 0918-7384345

PETS

Dog Trainer 09192050952

DOG TRAINER 4528681

Dog Trainer Home Service/
Boarding / Puppy Care
T-0918-719-3342

Phil. Dog School
Trains Dogs Scientifically
T-721-3736 • 0917-8483181

WANTED TO BUY

BUYING ROLEX
others, High Price CASH
09178142309/7269887/4123543

DFCTIVE TV/COMPO 7325865

WE BUY AT HIGH PRICE
R O L E X
5646593 5897041
5633742 0917-8473744

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

FEMALE

Escuela de Sto. Rosario is now in need of B.E.ED Teacher, 22-28 yrs. old. and a L.E.T. Passer. For more details please visit us at #97 DSAA Rosario, Pasig City or Call at 627-9941, 641-2795

F-ESCORT • 0917-9593176

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

FEMALE

Now Hiring:OFFICE CLERK
College grad with experience not over 30yrs old
SALES LADY
High School grad w/exp single 5'2 ht 19-24 yrs old 711-9636/732-1954 Hanna

MALE/FEMALE

URGENT OFC Staff/Personnel 18/45 w/w/o exp Start asap Direct Hire 4752637 JOAN

FASTFOOD COOK FILCHINESE 563 P. FAURA ERMITA 5240526

FREE Care Giver Seminar 5614990 5630009

★Ofc Staff 18/45 w/w/o exp★ START ASAP CALL 9134470 Direct Hiring Look Zobel

★Ofc Staff 18/45 w/w/o exp★ START ASAP 3390166 DORIS

★OFC STAFF START ASAP!★ 18-45 w/ w/o exp 6304670 TRIX

★OFC/ADMIN STAF 18-45y/o★ w/ w/o Exp 9121488 Mr. Diaz

HRD PERSONNEL 09173660641 FATIMA

HRD Stf 0919-4639391 Rose

Interior Company in need of Admin Assistant Grad Buss. or Mngt Knowledgable in Word or Excel. Honest Dependable Amiable bet. 25 to 35 yrs.old Responsible Call 722-4006 724-0112 look for MARLON OR NIA bet. 2pm to 8pm

NEED STAFF 8712449 EDRON

OFC Personnel 09184894621 Bayi
HRD Staff 09195541765 Rafly

OFC PERSONNEL 09207092799 FLOR

Ofc Satff 551-2388 Ms. Yna

Ofc Staff / HRD Start ASAP w/ Hi Salary 7279971 Mr. Bean

OFC STAFF 09192535623 MIKE

OFC STAFF 9134470 KAYE

OFC STAFF COLL GRAD /UGRAD 4370454 VINCENT

OFC STAFF/0920-2376713/BENEDICT

OFF STAFF Doy 4511872

Office Staff/09178969388/Abby

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE/FEMALE

PROMO GIRLS 527-1590

SUPERVISOR / OFC STAFF (22-45) College Level /Grad w/w/o Exp. 7291787 Ms. Lulu

SUPERVISOR 09192535623 CRIZEL

SUPERVISOR 09192535623 CRIZEL

Surgery-VRPMC Now Accepting 1st Yr Residents Submit Resume to Surgery or Call any SROD 5314911

PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

CALLING DR MEL MANLUGON CAN SOMEONE TELL ME HOW TO REACH HER FOR CONSULT BETH 09178339040

CAREGIVER TRNG 5276418

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the late **DIEGO H. GUTIERREZ** was settled extrajudicially by the heirs as per deed of extrajudicial settlement and adjudication per Doc. No. 320, Page No. 64, Book No. V, Series of 2002, before Atty. Jinky H. Cruz, Notary Public, Manila.
(PDI-Nov. 13, 20 & 27, 2002)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Sps. **Antonio P. Martin & Araceli B. Martin** who died on Sept. 3, 2002 & March 13, 2002 has been extrajudicially settled among their heirs as per Doc. # 465; Page # 93; Book XVIII; Series of 2002 before Notary Public Atty. Ruth R. Aldaba of Las Pinas City.
(PDI-Nov. 13, 20 & 27, 2002)

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is given that RFM Stock Cert. #31559 3000shares under the name of Jocelyn Ngo has been lost PDI-Nov. 13, 20 & 27, 2002

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

EARN EXTRA INCOME
P10T-P50T/mo (02)434-3039
www.realfreedombiz.com

EARN THRU PHONE 8965632

Magnegosyo Txt: 0919-3429747

RTW P28.00 Up 727-4934

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

ASPIRING MOTIVATED INDIVIDUALS SOUGHT BY SINGAPOREAN ENTREPRENEUR TO DEVELOPMENT OF INT'L DISTRIBUTION FRANCHISEE BUSINESS MIN. P15,000 START-UP
Ronnie@pacific.net.sg

B/SELL FULLY PD EDUC PLAN 780-0106 / 0917-7939632

Earn & Travel 09194018441

Entrepreneurs Wanted
By international company to expand local and international market. By appointment
T - 0916-6027084

Global Buss 0916-9368917

INT'L BUSINESS AT HOME 8376068

ERRATUM

The e-mail address of Human Resource Development Service of the Department of Trade and Industry is hrds@dti.dti.gov.ph not hrds@dti.gov.ph as printed in the DTI's Human Resource Development Service advertisement which came out in this newspaper last Sunday, Nov. 24, 2002.

MUSICWISE
PRODUCTIONS
KZK
Kyla and Karylle

in Concert
featuring **FREEVERSE**

Presented by Close up SUNSILK silky black

Tomas Morato
November 28,2002
9pm

Ticket Price
P500.00

For the benefit of: The re-construction of Sta. Lucia Parish Church, Sasmuan, Pampanga
Tickets available at RATSKY T. Morato and any outlet of BUFFALO JEANS by DAVID BITTON
For reservation please call: Tel. 373-9881 to 84 / 523-8608 to 10

Brought to you by BUFFALO DAVID BITTON SASMUAN DELICACIES SMINT

Media partners WAVE 89.1 105.1 PINOY EXCHANGE

WARM . PERSONAL DIGNIFIED
The choice of the country's most discriminating families over the last
102 YEARS
NACIONAL MEMORIAL HOMES
Tel. Nos. 713-5231 to 35 • Direct Lines 714-0867 to 68
Fax No. 714-0865

OBITUARIES

YORK (U.S.A.) CASKETS
... because they deserve only the best.
*For more information, please call your funeral director

In Loving Memory of the
15th Death Anniversary of our beloved Momsie

ROSARIO CRISTOBAL MIRANDA

Who joined our Lord on November 27, 1987

Mass will be offered on November 27, 2002 at 7:30 a.m.
at St. James Parish, Alabang Village, Muntinlupa City

The family requests your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Rosette, Veng, Grace & Teng

Happy are those who have died in the Lord;
let them rest from their labors for their good
deeds go with them.
Rev. 14:13

In Loving Memory
Of a dear father, we so dearly missed and love
On his 3rd Death Anniversary
The Family and friends of

Atty. Maximino B. Castillo

(UP LLB Class '56, Retired PNB Bank Attorney and
RTC Batangas Branch 7 Clerk of Court)

His Family and grandchildren

Widow, Nida Garcia Castillo
Mr. Sammy & Rissa C. Macatangay
Drs. Jeff & Menchu C. Zervas
Engr. Egay & Mina C. Meneses
Drs. Dindo & Irene Dumalaog Castillo
Engr. Celso & Baby Medrano Castillo
Mr. Oyvind & Cecile C. Rognerudengen
Engr. Cesar & Linda Cagandahan Castillo

his sisters and in-laws

Atty. Alicia C. Maranan & husband Engr. Vel Maranan
Mrs. Ma. Elena C. Baer & husband Roland Baer

Invites you to join us in prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.
Masses offered at the following churches today

Immaculate Conception Church	Bauan Batangas	5:30 a.m.
Parish of the Mother of Perpetual Help	Aplaya, Bauan Batangas	6:00 a.m.
Basilica of the Immaculate Conception Church	Batangas City	6:00 a.m.
Parish of St. Mary Eufracia	Alangilan, Batangas City	7:00 a.m.

RECIO+CASAS
ARCHITECTS

wish to express their deep sadness at the loss of their dear colleague and friend,

RAMON O. LORENZANA

who passed away on November 24, 2002.

His remains lie in state at the Loyola Funeral Chapels Guadalupe. Interment will be on Sunday, December 1, 2002 after the 8:00 AM Mass.

Please remember **Mon** in your prayers.

HOLY GARDENS MEMORIAL PARK
3F Unishoppe Complex, Quezon Avenue, Angono, Rizal
Tels. 651-1711 to 15. Direct Line 651-0737, 648-2196
Telefax 651-0756
Helping in the Grief of Many People

INTERMENT NOTICE

Name	Date of Interment	Time	Place of Interment	Place of Wake
AILYN E. PAGADUAN	Nov. 27	10:00 AM	Holy Gardens La Union Memorial Park, San Fernando City, La Union	Ilocanos Sur, San Fernando City,
HERMINIO P. BALICHA	Nov. 28	10:00 AM	Holy Gardens La Union Memorial Park, San Fernando City, La Union	Biday, San Fernando City

www.holygardens.com

Our Dearly Beloved

Maria Hernandez-Flores

Body lies in state at Bacnotan Poblacion, La Union
Born: February 14, 1907
Died: November 21, 2002
Husband: Melecio D. Florest
Her Loving Children: Mel and Helen; Manuel and Maria; Jesus and Jean; Eduardo and Gilda; Wilhelmina
Interment will be on December 7, 2002
at Bacnotan Municipal Cemetery.

"Mother, we will surely miss u...
Your loving and caring touch, your advice and true love for us and most specially your magnificent presence.
We love you so much!"

"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord."
Matthew 10:39

We loved you in life, much more in death.
You will be in our hearts forever.

MA. CARMEN PAREDES SALUMBIDES

Beloved wife of Dr. Gilberto C. Salumbides

Peacefully joined her creator on November 24, 2002 at the age of 81.

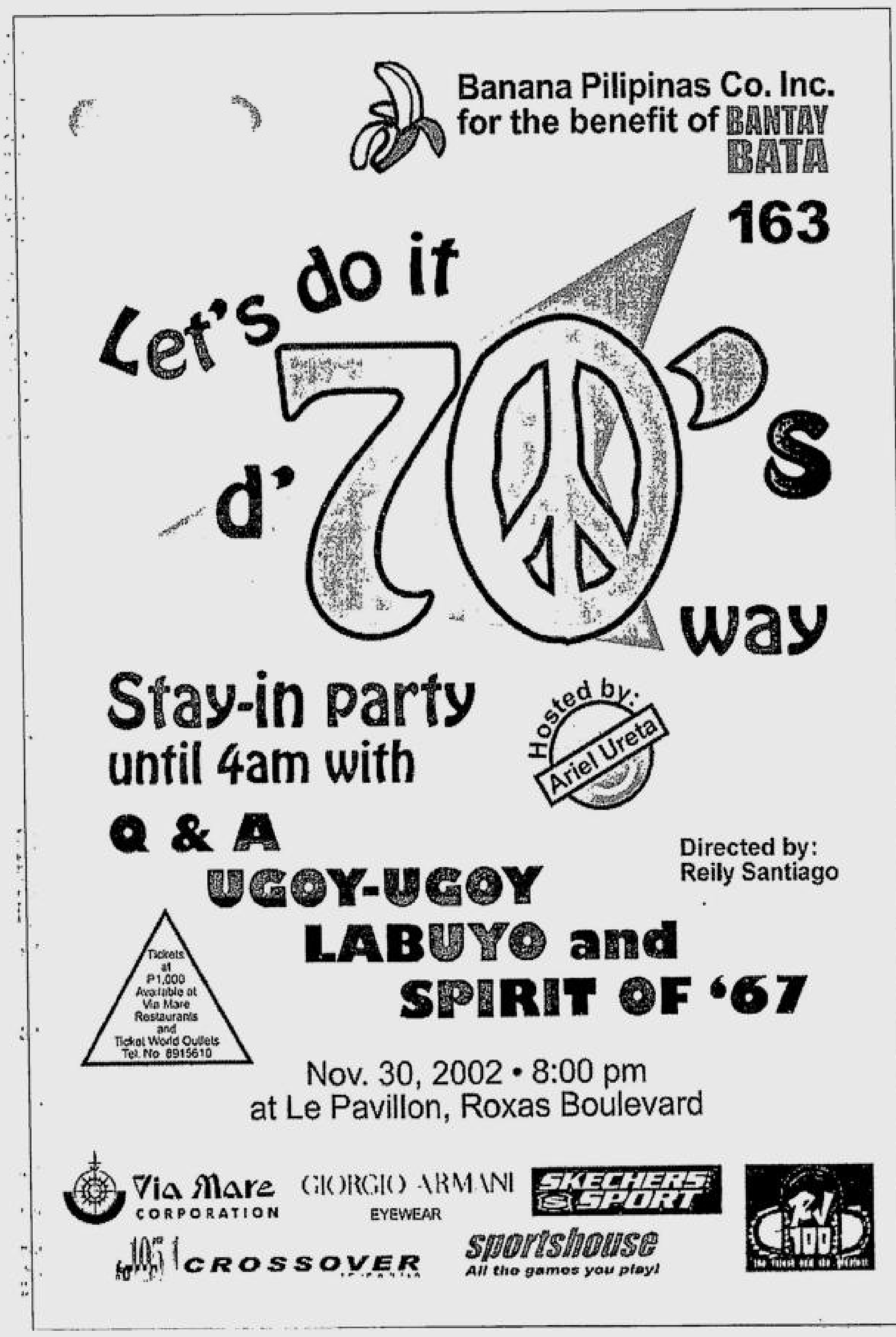
Her children **Milo** and **Layne**, **Diutay** and **Tina**, **Cory**, **Nonoy** and **Jo**, **Menchu**, **Queennie** and **Arvin**, grandchildren, great grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies at **Chapel A, Arlington Memorial Chapel**, Araneta Avenue, Q.C.

Interment will be on Saturday, **November 30, 2002** at the **Eternal Gardens Memorial Park**, Baesa, Caloocan City after the 8 a.m. mass.

FOR YOUR CLASSIFIED ADS REQUIREMENTS, CALL OUR CLASSIFIEDS ADVERTISING HOTLINES: HEAD OFFICE: 897-8808 loc. 514, 516; 899-4425; 897-2535; 897-8425 (Telefax); CUBAO: 912-9008 to 11 (Aurora); MAKATI: 892-5578; 811-4361; 811-4370; KALAW: 528-0213; 527-3342; MEGAMALL: 635-0219, 635-0220

CLASSIFIEDS


Banana Pilipinas Co. Inc.
for the benefit of BANTAY BATA
163

Let's do it d' 70's way

Stay-in party until 4am with
Q & A
UGOY-UGOY
LABUYO and
SPIRIT OF '67

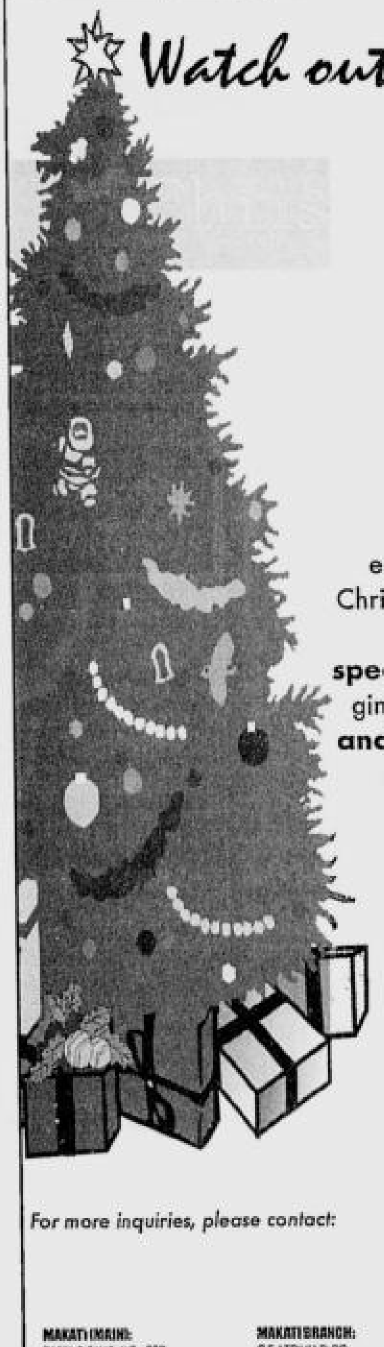
Hosted by: Ariel Ureta

Directed by:
Reily Santiago

Tickets at P1,000 Available at Via Mare Restaurants and Ticket World Outlets Tel. No 8915610

Nov. 30, 2002 • 8:00 pm
at Le Pavillon, Roxas Boulevard

Via Mare CORPORATION
GIORGIO ARMANI EYEWEAR
SKECHERS SPORT
RJ 100
105.1 CROSSOVER
sportshouse All the games you play!


Watch out for...

christmas classifieds

Christmas is just around the corner and the time for shopping and gift giving has come. On **December 1, 2002,** Inquirer Classifieds will release a special supplement entitled **"Christmas Classifieds"** featuring Christmas special offers on **electronics, home furnishing, automotive** and other **specialty shops**. Included as well are holiday gimmicks of **credit card companies, hotels and restaurants** within the Metro. Circulated in Metro Manila and backed up by the most read broadsheet in the land, the special promises to be a most cost efficient and effective venture.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS.
CLASSIFIEDS

For more inquiries, please contact:

MAKATI (MAIN):
PASONG TAMO AVE . COR.
YAGUE & MASCARDO STS.
MAKATI CITY
☎ 897-8808 loc. 514, 516
☎ 8978425(Direct)
897-8425
e-mail: mon_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

MAKATI BRANCH:
G.F ATRIUM BLDG.,
MAKATI AVENUE,
MAKATI CITY
☎ 811-4361/811-4370
892-5578
e-mail: makati_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

MANDALUYONG:
SM MEGAMALL, 5TH LEVEL
BUILDING B, EDSA
☎ 635-0219, 637-2008
635-0220
e-mail: sm_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

QUEZON CITY:
ST. ANTHONY'S BLDG.,
891 AURORA BLVD.,
CUBAO, QC
☎ 912-9008 to 10
912-9011
e-mail: cubao_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

MANILA:
G/F TRINITY BLDG.
T.M. KALAW ST.
ERMITA, MANILA
☎ 527-3342, 528-0183,
528-0189
528-0213
e-mail: intra_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

ALABANG:
ALABANG DESKTOP EXPRESS
MAKATI SUPERMART-ALABANG
ALABANG TOWNCENTER
MUNTINLUPA CITY
☎ 850-6455

PROVINCIAL BRANCH:
PASONG TAMO AVE . COR.
YAGUE & MASCARDO STS.
MAKATI CITY
☎ 897-8808 loc. 240
☎ 899-4427(Direct)
897-8425
e-mail: rabad@inquirer.com.ph

Inquirer, Manila Broadcasting Company, Optimus join forces to bring Job Market on radio

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP FOR JOB MARKET
Signing the agreement are (seated from left) Inquirer SVP for Sales and Marketing Rene Reinoso, MBC president Ruperto Nicdao Jr., Inquirer president Sandy Prieto Romualdez and Optimus president Juan "Babst" Reyes Jr. Witnessing the signing are (standing from left) Inquirer assistant vice president Donald Lim, DZRH sales director Jose Ma. Parroco, broadcaster Ruth Abao Espinosa, PaW editor Reggie Reyes, broadcaster Andy Verde, former DOLE secretary lawyer Benny Laguesma, Optimus media projects and events director Ricky Garcia, Optimus marketing director Mia Acuna, and Optimus account manager Jet Abugan. PHOTOS BY EUGENE ARANETA AND ERNIE SARMIENTO

THE PEOPLE AT WORK TEAM ON RADIO
Andy Verde, Reggie Reyes, Ruth Abao Espinosa and lawyer Benny Laguesma

PHILIPPINE Daily Inquirer, Manila Broadcasting Company, and Optimus Managers & Advisors, Inc. recently signed a tripartite memorandum of agreement to bring Job Market on radio.

This agreement signals the strategic partnership of the leading newspaper, the number one radio station nationwide, and the highly innovative management firm in a synergistic move to bring the power of three in support of Job Market.

As part of the agreement, the Job Market portion will be regularly featured on "People at Work *sa* DZRH."

The "People at Work *sa* DZRH" segment is aired every Wednesday from 3:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. on DZRH (66.6 AM) as part of the popular program, Operation Tulong, and is co-produced by MBC and Optimus. It features job announcements, tips for job seekers, and advice on work-related problems. Hosting this segment are veteran broadcasters Ruth Abao Espino and Andy Verde with People at Work editor Reggie Reyes and former secretary of the Department of Labor and Employment lawyer Benny Laguesma.

The Job Market portion includes job announcements from Job Market's client companies and a discussion of articles from the People at Work section of the Inquirer.

With this portion, followers of DZRH will have access to job opportunities and career advice that can help them in their search for a better life. Job Market client companies will also have the additional exposure for their recruitment ads.

Need for achievement motivates tax expert

WHILE other grils were dreaming of becoming a nurse, a model or a stewardess, Ma. Victoria Españo wanted to work for the prestigious National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in the United States.

It's not hard to imagine Españo working for the space agency known for excellence and discipline. Currently head of the tax division of Punongbayan & Araullo (P&A), the country's third-largest accounting firm, Marivic has always been and is an achiever--smart, driven and conscientious.

Math whiz

At the Manila Science High School, Españo got consistently high grades. She did exceptionally well in mathematics and physics, subjects that she loved, which probably helped her develop the analytical skills that still serve her well today. When she wasn't studying, she was helping her parents in their *sari-sari* store or at their meat stall in the market.

It was a life of routine--home, school, work, home again--but while Españo isn't complaining, she also admits this was the reason she never got to enjoy her elementary and high school days. She didn't go to parties and she rarely got a chance to go to the movies.

"There was just too little time," Españo remembers. "And because we seldom enjoyed the luxury of house help, my four siblings and I had our assigned household chores. Everybody was expected to help out at home or at the market."

Did she ever feel any resentment towards her parents? "Why should I?" Españo says. "I developed a strong sense of responsibility. If there was something to be done, I simply did it." Besides, as Españo would later realize, the family business was practical training for a future accountant like her. The basics of dealing with people, managing time, formulating market strategies and pleasing clients were things she learned while working in her family" market stall.

Scholar

It was in college that Españo finally enjoyed herself. She chose to study mathematics at the Philippine Normal University where she was a full scholar of the National Science Development Board (now the Department of Science and Technology). The scholarship was an attractive prospect because it was a chance for some independence.

Españo bloomed in college. She went to parties and got into sports, ending up as a varsity swimmer. She was making up for what she missed in high school, but she always made sure her actions never got out of control. She points out, "I was glad that I experienced all these things in college when I was already quite mature and responsible, and not in high school when I could have been more reckless."

Whatever reckless fun Españo got herself into, it didn't matter in the end. She finished in the top 10 of her graduating class. The signs were clear--this girl was going to go places.

Finance experience

After stints as a teacher at Claret School and tax researcher at the National Tax Research Center, Españo went to work at the Department of Finance in 1989. She eventually found herself assisting then undersecretary Dr. Nene Guevarra in pushing for the approval of major tax proposals, particularly the expansion of the value-added tax or e-vat.

Españo could have asked for more challenging work. She supervised policy research and development on fiscal and tax measures, conducted policy studies in public finance, and represented the DOF in public hearings conducted by the Committee on Ways and Means on both Houses of Congress. It was a grueling schedule.

"We were not the typical government office *na pagdating ng* 4:30 p.m., slow down *na*. Our boss was a slave driver," she recalls without any hint of bitterness. "We would report to the office at 7 a.m. and leave at 7 p.m. or even later. I was six months pregnant with my second child and I was still attending the bicameral conference of the committee on e-vat. Dr. Guevarra would kid then senator Ernesto Herrera, "Sir, *ipasa niyo na yung* bill *bago manganak itong* assistant *ko*."

Juggling work, family

Españo would prove to be a skilled juggler of multiple concerns and responsibilities. In between pregnancies and taking care of her home and family, she took a special masteral course in accounting at the Polytechnic University of the Philippines, took the CPA licensure exams and passed them. She further honed her credentials with economic courses, and she never slowed her pace of work. From the Senate, Españo moved to the private sector in 1995 to work as tax manager for Atlantic Gulf & Pacific Manila. She joined P&A in 1997.

As relentless as she was, there were times when Españo found herself pausing and taking stock of the balancing act she was doing. At P&A where she quickly rose from tax manager to partner in just two years, she was initially hesitant to accept her promotions, which came in quick succession. She feared the strain that the added responsibilities would cause her family life.

"In Philippine setting, even if you're successful in your career but not in your family life, you might still not be considered a success," Españo says.

Fortunately, Españo did not have to make a hard choice. In addition to having a supportive. husband, understanding kids, and a democratic employer, setting her priorities straight has helped her reach a comfortable compromise between career and family.

ESPAñO

Managing priorities

"Priorities can be managed," Españo says. "There will be instances that work is the number one priority and it's the non-negotiable element at that time. Just don't try to do everything. Just accept that there are things you can do and cannot do. When family has to be your priority, don't feel guilty."

Españo hopes that whatever she's doing right now will rub off on her fellow working moms at P&A. Sometimes she finds herself in a difficult position. While she understands that she can't argue with her women managers of family is the issue, she also has to consider het duties to the company. So to strike a balance, Españo works it out with her staff by asking them to tell her as soon as possible if there are deadlines that cannot be met so she can look for alternative solutions.

Middle ground

Españo's ability to find a middle ground in every situation has also become the key to her success as head of the tax division of P&A. Because she has worked for the government and the private sector, she understands the concerns of both parties when it comes to paying taxes.

"I recognize how badly the government needs tax revenue, but on the other hand, I also understand the private sector's concern on saving taxes. My job now is to make sure that my clients pay their taxes correctly. At the same time, I have to help them structure their transactions in a way that will enable them to save on taxes without resorting to incorrect practices."

Keeping that in mind, Españo makes no apologies for being extra-scrupulous in her work. "It's a difficult job which can be lonely at times," she concedes, "but it is very challenging and fulfilling." Besides, it's not like she isn't enjoying herself. Despite the difficulties along the road, the view is still great from the top.

Success skills for ages 16-30

By William S. Frank

UNLIKE many frustrating things in life, success is fairly black and white. It is attainable by the application of a few basic and universal principles. Yet as I've said before, "If success were easy, everyone would be driving a Porsche."

As a consultant, I've found that I can make successful people more successful; but it is very difficult-maybe impossible-to turn non-motivated people into superstars.

The reason is that they lack what I call the "basic success skills," things like showing up on time.

Showing up

Here's an example: many times I've felt sorry for callers with desperate career problems. I've gone to great lengths to re-arrange my schedule so I could meet with them at no charge to offer help. More often than not, these desperate folks don't show up to take advantage of free counseling sessions.

It's surprising how many people register for a class, then drop out midway. Or how many volunteer to be on a committee or project team, and then miss half the meetings. Woody Allen said, "The secret of success is simply showing up," and I believe he's right. "Showing up" is one of the most fundamental success skills.

Success model

I've developed a success model for my two sons, ages 25 and 26. The 25-year-old is a musician in North Hollywood; the 26-year-old is an architectural student in Seattle. Both are at the age of getting their feet on the ground in their careers. Here is a chart I developed for them.

Responsibility:
Adult
Ownership
"It's me"/ "It's mine"
Results
You act on events
Actor (power)
Make things happen
Do it now

Irresponsibility:
Child
Denial
"It wasn't me"/ "It's them"
Excuses
Events act on you
Victim (powerless)
Watch things happen
Wait; do it later

Let's take a look. The model suggests that the goal of growth is to move away from childlike attitudes and behaviors into adult roles. When we do, success usually follows.

Responsible traits

The responsible person (adult) takes ownership of situations, and says, "It's me- it's mine. I did it; if something went wrong, it's (partly) my fault. Let's see what I can do to fix it. Let's see what I can do differently next time." By contrast, the irresponsible person (child) lives in denial, and says, "It wasn't me-it was them." Meaning, "It was someone else's fault, not mine."

Where the responsible person gets results, the irresponsible person offers a myriad of clever excuses. I've heard thousands of job-changers make excuses about why they can't perform. One day I made a list of all their excuses, 66 to be exact, and here are just a few: 1. It's too hot (or cold), 2. It would mean starting over, 3. The timing isn't right, and 4. I went to Catholic school.

One of my sons has a chronic medical problem--not too serious, but serious enough to be a handy excuse whenever he needs one. Much to his dismay, I pointed that out to him.

Successful people act on events; they're actors. They retain their personal power. Less successful people let events act on them; they're victims. They feel powerless. The successful person makes things happen; the unsuccessful person watches things happen. Successful people do it now. Less successful people wait; they prefer to do it later.

ORTIGAS
MAKATI
ROXAS

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Success skills

I wanted to teach my boys "The Basic Success Skills," so I made a list of 28, and I'll repeat them here.

1. Show up on time.
2. Listen 80 percent, talk 20 percent.
3. Do what you say you're going to do.
4. Own the problem; don't make excuses.
5. Do it now.
6. Plan for the best, and expect the best.
7. Give more than you get.
8. Get organized; keep a "To do" list.
9. Be a compulsive note taker.
10. Promise small, deliver big.
11. Tell the truth.
12. Compromise ... practice win/win.
13. Write down your goals.
14. Seek outside support-don't try to go it alone.
15. Ask for advice, ideas, and help.
16. Spend less money than you earn.
17. Be likeable and love others.
18. Always be studying something.
19. Don't talk down to anyone.
20. Desire to be the best.
21. Arrive at work early, stay late.
22. Love what you do.
23. Meet time deadlines.
24. Keep a single focus.
25. Look out for others.
26. Be quick.
27. Develop a sense of mission, purpose and urgency.
28. Love your career but don't become a workaholic.

(Reprinted with permission from www.careerlab.com. Copyright 2002 William S. Frank. All Rights Reserved.)

BREAKFAST CHAT

What makes an employee happy to work for his employer?

By Ricky B. Garcia

MANY business owners and executives are perplexed when it comes to effectively motivating their employees. Lack of motivation is one of the primary causes of low employee retention, high operating expenses and lower profitability.

In the People at Work segment of Studio 23's Breakfast recently, program host Ria Tanjuatco and McGraw Hill marketing executive Jenny Javier interviewed Jane Mendoza, branch manager of Power Books Specialty Store, who shared her experiences in motivating employees. Below is the gist of the interview.

PaW: What are the factors that undermine behavior and limit employee potential?

Jane: There are a lot of reasons why employees lose enthusiasm at work and why they don't achieve their full potential. Company policy is one major reason. When a company policy is administered and the employees are not informed of the necessity and advantages that may flow from it, the employees will not be too enthusiastic to cooperate. They will only resist the change or see it as an additional workload on their part. For example, if you want to implement a control measure that involves a lot of paperwork, the employees will only see this as additional work.

Working conditions are also important. Employee outputs are directly affected by how people work, and that in turn, is affected by their work environment. Do they have clean bathrooms? Is the temperature just right-not too hot or too cold? Do they have comfortable chairs? All of these things matter.

Security is also another factor. Employees, at every level of the organization, want to be secure. A degree of security comes from the management's transparency. A clear mission, good communication, clear job descriptions, and clear expectations help in making the employees feel secure.

Employees also feel secure if they experience decisive leadership and if there is an absence of unnecessary secrecy. An employee who does not feel secure will not be excited to work. He or she will not put his best foot forward in doing his job.

Status can also demotivate employees, especially those in the lower ranks. Therefore, managers must make sure that respect is given to every employee within the organization-regardless of rank. Also, someone with insufficient authority who regularly has to consult somebody higher to get things done will not learn how to decide.

Lastly, personal life plays a major role in affecting an employee's behavior. You see, if a job makes unreasonable or unfair demands, it will be resented. We know that organizations have to expect people to work hard in a competitive world but there are limits. Eventually, if things are overdone, productivity will decrease. Employees will experience burnout- emotionally and physically. Managers should remember that employees are people with lives outside their work.

PaW: What do employees consider as motivating factors for them?

Jane: Employees can be motivated in many ways. One is through achievement. It is important for managers to provide employees with measurable goals. Examples of this are sales quota, cost savings and percentage of customer satisfaction. When employees achieve what has been set, you recognize that achievement. It can be minor-like a pat on the back, or a spoken praise-or major-like a promotion, incentive or a salary increase.

Responsibility is also a good motivator. Giving employees responsibility motivates them to do better at work. Give people responsibility and you might be surprised at how creative they can get. If given the chance, employees can take charge of projects and can become experts in some areas.

PaW: What is the best way to motivate problem employees? How do you motivate them to excel?

Jane: Problem employees are those who make work and life miserable for those around them. Many times, it is tempting to simply fire a difficult employee. But it can't be done because the law does not allow that. This is because many times, justifiable grounds for termination aren't present. The difficult employee does his or her job adequately enough to avoid formal discipline. The challenge here is for the manager to work with, not just patiently, but productively, with a difficult employee.

So how do you that? Furthermore, how do you motivate them to excel? The first step is to listen. Sometimes, employees become difficult because they want to be noticed, they want to be heard. Listen carefully. Listening benefits both you and the employee concerned. By listening, you gain greater insight into people and receive useful ideas about how your organization can do better. The employee, on the other hand, will feel that his or her views are being heard and will therefore respond more openly.

The problem with most managers is sometimes, we don't want to even hear what the difficult employee is saying. And when we're forced to listen, we make up our minds in advance and go on with our pre-conceived notions. When this happens, difficult people become even more difficult because they feel that they are misunderstood or ignored.

PaW: How do you help consistently good workers and star employees to keep on improving?

Jane: I have always believed, and I always tell this old saying to those I supervise: "No matter how good you are, there is always a room for improvement." Star performers should be encouraged to continuously learn and to never stop improving at what they do. The manager should continue to give them realistic goals, give them more challenging responsibilities and recognize their achievements.

PaW: How does honest feedback encourage and strengthen employees' motivation?

Jane: Honest feedback strengthens employees' motivation because they are informed of how others view their performance. A feedback can either be negative or positive. A negative feedback, if done constructively, can motivate the employee to do better. On the other hand, a positive feedback encourages and affirms a good performance.

PaW: How will you demonstrate that you are the guardian of your organization's values? How will that motivate others?

Jane: As a manager, you should practice what you preach. If your organization values honesty, commitment, dedication to work, and punctuality-then you should possess all these values. Employees look up to you so you should set a good example. Good managers are good role models. When employees dream of reaching what you have reached, or when they start wanting to be in your position, they will be motivated to work harder and excel at what they do.

PaW: What steps will you take to become a motivating manager?

· **Jane:** Frankly, it takes time and extra effort to be a motivating manager. Managers nowadays have too much to do in too little time. Because of this, managers are often stressed out. And, when they are under pressure, some of them respond by taking it out on those nearest them-their subordinates. Definitely, the manager should avoid this behavior. Remember that your competence as a manager will be judged not only on how you perform but on the combined performance of you and your subordinates. Managers manage-they obtain results through other people. These "other people" should be motivated to produce quality out puts. Motivate your employees by doing the following:

1. Be motivated yourself. You cannot expect to motivate others if you do not feel good at what you do.
2. Be people oriented. Motivation demands honesty and sincerity. If you do not really care about people, it will be very hard to motivate them
3. Have a list of motivational actions-large and small-and practice them regularly.

PaW: How can we create a more motivating environment?

Jane: Managers should always encourage open communication. Employees should be encouraged to voice out ideas and opinions. The employees should realize how they fit into the whole organization. They should see that their contributions, their jobs are regarded as important and valued.

JENNY Javier (from left), Ria Tanjuatco, Jane Mendoza and Ryan Agoncillo

PHOTO BY RICKY GARCIA

LIABILITY
FIRE
PERSONAL ACCIDENT

COVERED. Local solutions from a world leader in general insurance. AIG S.E. ASIA

Philam Insurance Company, Inc. is a member of the American International Group, Inc. writing general insurance business in the Philippines. Telephone: 632-817-3001 Fax: 632-817-5681

People at Work Live! goes to the countryside

RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONIES
Inquirer assistant vice president Donald Lim, UPHSL chancellor Karen Tamayo, Ancilla president Tita Datu Puangco, People at Work editor Regina Reyes, PICPA-Laguna Chapter president Conrado Roxas open the first countryside People at Work Live! Seminar Series

PEOPLE AT WORK SUPPORT CHAIN
(From left) Roxas, Biñan Vice Mayor Jose Ruben "Cookie" Yatco, Tamayo and Lim link arms to bring People at Work Live! to Laguna and neighboring provinces.

STUDENTS of UPHSL College of Business and the Directors of PICPA-Laguna Chapter worked to make the event a success

PARTICIPANTS rush to register for the once in a lifetime chance to hear world class resource persons at subsidized ticket prices

HAPPY participants listen to the power packed presentation of Mariecor Salas Ding on professional image for leaders

BINAN Vice Mayor Jose Ruben "Cookie" Yatco welcomes participants to progressive Biñan

FOR THE first time, People at Work Live! Seminar Series went to the countryside to bring its popular seminars to Laguna and neighboring provinces last Nov. 23. The University of Perpetual Help System Laguna (UPHSL) in Biñan, Laguna hosted the whole day event at its Performing Arts Theater.

UPHSL chancellor Dr. Karen Tamayo and Inquirer's marketing services and assistant vice president Donald Lim cut the ribbon at the opening ceremonies of the event. They were assisted by Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting president Tita Datu Puangco, PICPA-Laguna president Conrado Roxas and People at Work editor Regina Reyes. Dr. Tamayo, Mr. Lim and Binan Vice Mayor Jose Ruben "Cookie" Yatco gave the welcome remarks.

Popular seminars

Three sessions were conducted during the day. In the first session, Ms. Puangco discussed "Achieving your personal vision in troubled times." She talked on how to prepare one's personal vision and mission and how these form the basis for success in one's career as an employee or an entrepreneur. She also discussed career alternatives and gave tips on how one can get his dream job or start his own business.

The second session was handled by Mariecor Salas Ding, president of MSD Personnel Development Consultants. She discussed "Developing a power image for leadership." Ms Ding stressed the importance of having a good professional image for success in life. She showed how this can be achieved through a confident attitude, poise and good manners. She demonstrated how to dress and groom one's self to project a power image.

Ernie Cecilia, president of EC Business Solutions and Career Center, tackled "Negotiating your way to success." He outlined the concepts and steps in effective negotiation. He also gave tips on how one can be a successful negotiator not only at work but in various life situations.

Sponsors

The program was emceed by People at Work editor Regina Reyes and McGraw Hill marketing executive Jenny Javier.

The series was sponsored by Job Market, INQ7 Interactive Inc., Edsamail Philippines, Land Bank of the Philippines, University of Perpetual Help System Laguna, Adobo Interactive, Single Search Philippines, Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting, Inc., MSD Personnel Development. Consultants, .EC Business Solutions and Career Center.

Philippine Beverage Partners, Inc. (a subsidiary of CocaCola Bottlers Philippines) provided Ponkana juice and Viva water and Amalgamated Specialists (AMSPEC) provided the ballpens and pencils for the participants.

The event was organized for the Philippine Daily Inquirer by Optimus Managers & Advisors, Inc. in cooperation with the Laguna Chapter of the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

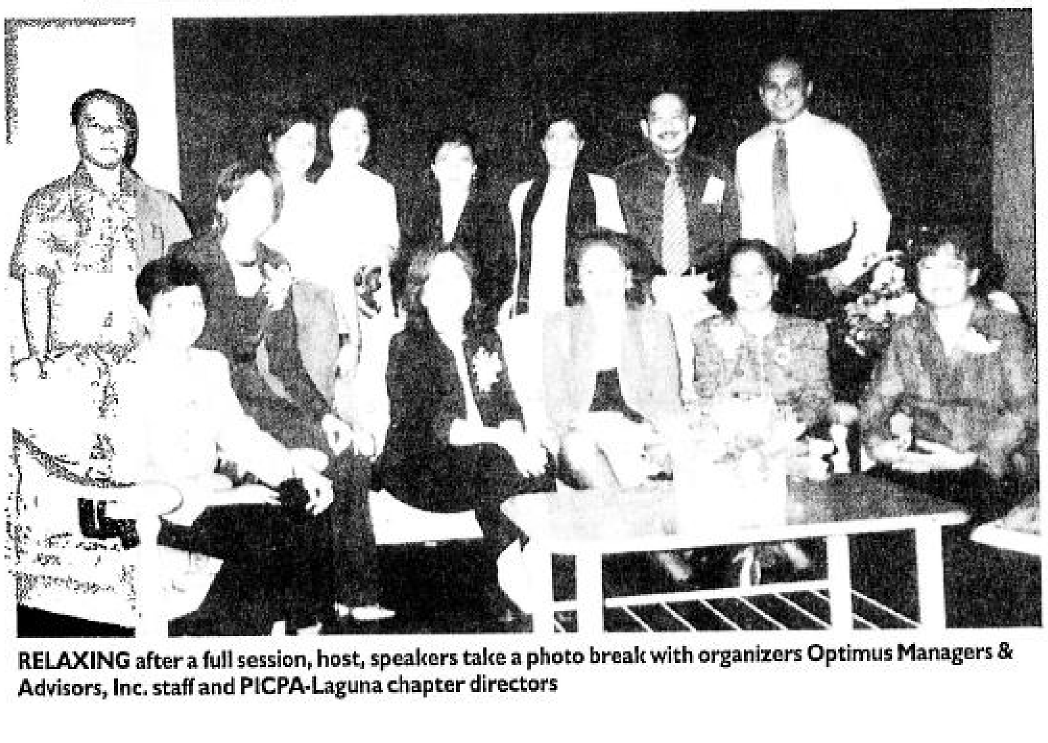
ERNIE Cecilia does his "thing" to teach negotiation

IMAGE consultant Mariecor Salas Ding gives the "works" to much applause from the audience

PUANGCO shows how personal vision and mission can change the course of your life

ANCILLA'S shibashi dance exercise motivated chancellor, editor and speaker to move to the beat of the music

PONKANA juice was a hit with the participants who consumed more than their usual share of the thirst quencher



RELAXING after a full session, host, speakers take a photo break with organizers Optimus Managers & Advisors, Inc. staff and PICPA-Laguna chapter directors

THE PEOPLE who made the event possible

PHOTOS BY EGAY MONTAÑA AND RICKY GARCIA

email: peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph

PEOPLE at WORK

Your dream career begins at 40

By Tita Datu Puangco

Advice
FOR THE ANXIOUS PERSON AT WORK

I AM 47 years old. I just left the company I have been working with for the past seven years. Because business has gotten so bad, our company cannot any more sustain our operations. Our company was a buying agent, basically for garments exported to the United States. I was the Senior Merchandiser. I am a UP graduate of BS Clothing Technology and I am computer literate to a certain extent. I've been in the garment business since I graduated in 1977.

I would like to go back to work but when I surf the Internet for job opportunities, I see that the maximum age limit is 35 to 40 years old.

Do you think I'm too old to find another job? Aren't there employers out there who don't discriminate against older applicants?

Too Old

I am sorry to hear about your losing your job after seven years of good service. The decline of our garments industry is a downside of globalization. We all know that a lot of our manufacturing enterprises have fled the country, attracted by lower and more competitive costs in China, for example.

But you are right, one has to be proactive and search for other job opportunities. I also know how tough it is to compete with new graduates. Most companies search for individuals who are more proficient with computers and are content with less pay than those who are more experienced.

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPHANIE BRAVO

Dream job

But I am optimistic that you can find work. In fact an author even said that at this stage of your life, you should seek "the job of your dreams." Typically, when we are young, we grab the first job available. But today, with plenty of experience behind you, you can in fact define your dream job and be persistent in finding it. Or else create your dream job by becoming an entrepreneur.

Recently, we had an interesting conversation with Dr. Karen Tamayo, Chancellor of the University of Perpetual Help System Laguna of Binan. She related to us how the founder built the seven strong university system during the last 30 years of his life, dying at a full age of 81 years old. So, think of it, the saying "life starts at 40" is true depending on the attitude we take towards life's challenges. Don't get discouraged; there are opportunities available if you know how to search for them.

Search

How do you find your dream job? You can begin by making a list of your skills and competencies. Start with the skills you developed in your old job as senior merchandiser. Make sure you do not simply look at the technical skills but look at your other skills in management, human relations etc. Then, look at competencies you have developed in your areas of interest, your hobbies or even your social and community involvement.

Then, go on to the next step, defining your life vision, mission and values. Try to imagine yourself three to five years from now and what you wish to be doing. Take a look also at your life mission. What do you want to achieve by your 60th birthday? Then, list down the conditions you prefer at work. It would also be good to ponder on what kind of personality you have and the job that would suit you.

Prospects

If you want to pursue work in your current field, you can try applying to supermarkets, department stores or trading companies that may need experienced merchandisers. The best way to find the job you desire may not be through the Internet. Statistics show that the Internet may not be the best choice in trying to land a job. Try other means like inquiring from relatives and friends about possible openings in their places of work. Then, you can also send your resumes to potential employers but persist in following up, so you get to the interview stage.

Your future employers may object to your age. But there are means of countering objections. You can do this by demonstrating flexibility in terms of pay and benefits. You may also want to build on the advantages of a company hiring a person with experience, without sounding defensive.

Options

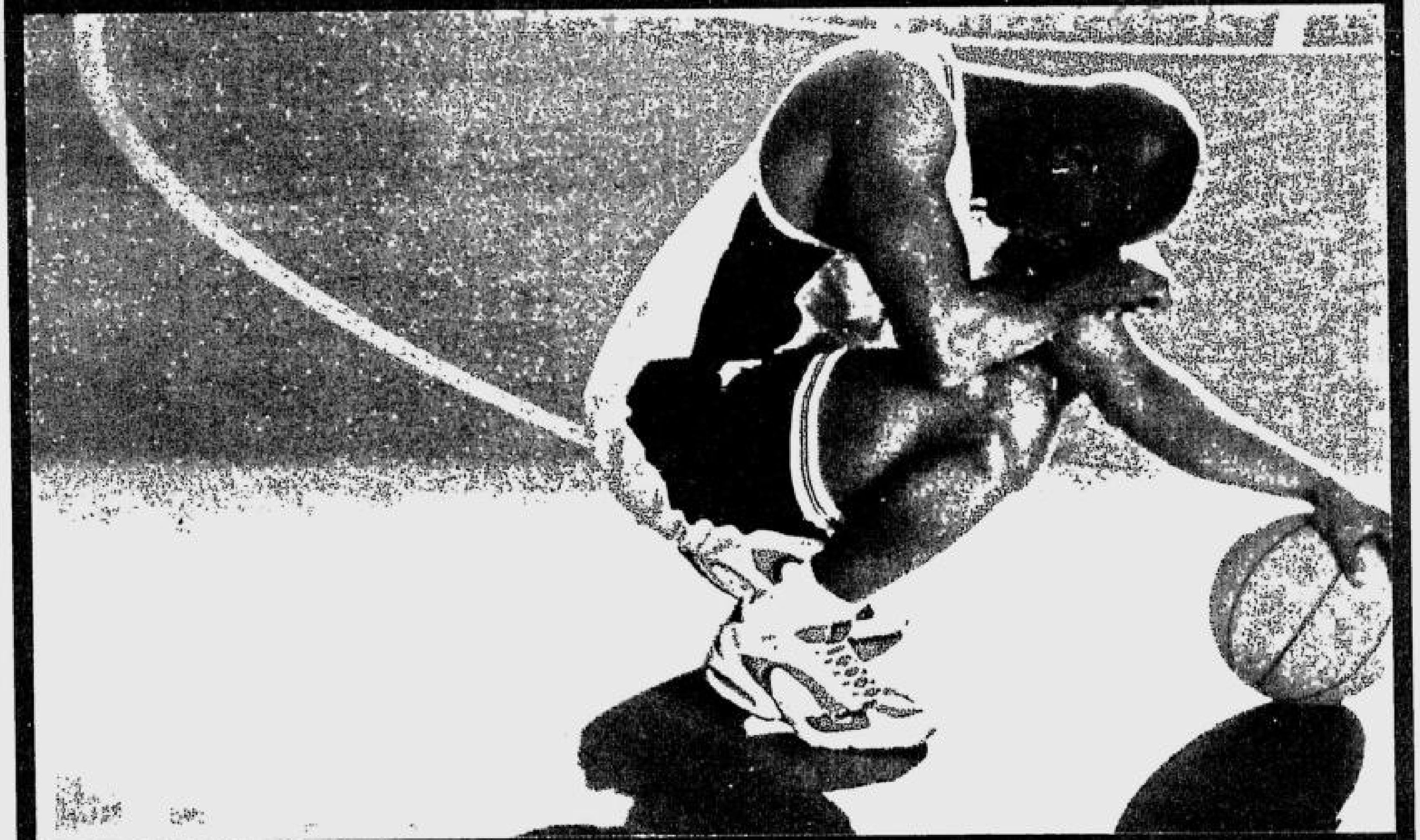
On the other hand, you may want to pursue a different career, tapping your competencies for different careers or industries such as customer relations or account management or the academe.

In some occupations, age may in fact be an advantage. An example could be in our consulting or training business. We prefer consultants with a certain level of maturity and experience. Clients can easily buy a book but they pay for the insights of consultants with plenty of work experience.

The other option is to create your own job. What are your fields of interest? You may want to create a job that matches your cash fund. Recently, I met a young man who shared with me how his older brother makes plenty of money selling a single product, prepaid phone cards. If one is enterprising there is no limit to what he/she can do.

Then, finally aware of many employers out there who read this column, please get in touch if you are interested to interview our letter writer. I am sure, she will serve you with much dedication and diligence. May God reward your search for meaningful work soon.

(Ms Puangco is CEO and president of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting. Send comments, feedback or requests for advice through e-mail to ancilla-edc@pacific.net.ph *or fax to 892-2902.)*



travelling / goal tending / charging

ISP plans shouldn't be like a basketball game with a lot of penalties.

SKY Internet's BreakFree changes the rules of the game to give you the best Internet service ever.

No more expensive pre-set plans. No more high rates on excess minutes. Just an Internet subscription that's simple and flexible, giving you the best value for your money. Unlike other ISPs which round off usage to the next hour, SKY Internet's BreakFree computes it by the minute, so you pay only for what you use. You're only charged P31.25 per hour for the minimum first 8 hours, and the longer you're online, the lower the rate gets-- as low as P16/hr. We even have a unique anti-hack feature with our Caller ID Blocking System and Single Log-on Policy. Of course, the one thing we didn't change is the kind of service that made us the preferred ISP: easiest connections at the fastest speeds. Stop being penalized, call us at (02) 411-2000 or visit www.skyinet.net

SKY internet®
Faster, because every second counts.

24/7 DEDICATED CUSTOMER SERVICE Hotlines: • Metro Manila - 411-2000 • Baguio - 443-2180 • Cebu - 253-6677 • Davao - 300-8435 • Iloilo - 336-8405 • Laguna - 5344884 • Daet/Camarines Norte - 441-8888 • Legazpi/Albay - 482-8888 • Naga/Camarines Sur - 472-8888 • Sorsogon - 421-8888 • Leyte - 3257788 / 334-8888 • Agusan - 3437777 • Butuan - 324-8887 • Cagayan de Oro - 828-8888 • General Santos - 301-8888

For feedback, text us at (0919)880-33-54 or email us at pdi_lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

LIFESTYLE

2bU! to be young • to be you • To be you! • young

Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**
Chief of correspondents **Pam Pastor**

UMBRO

Model behavior

By Maui V. Reyes
2bU! Correspondent

Derek Ramsay

TWO reporters were heard gushing over how their 10-minute interview went with Derek Ramsay. "He's like Enrique Iglesias," one of them said, still giddy over their little conversation.

I decided that I had to see for myself. Ramsay did resemble the Latin Grammy winner, but nothing like the mysterious, outspoken musician.

"I'm really shy, actually," Ramsay said.

The twentysomething model has come a long way from posing with defunct local brands. Now hosting noontime shows and various events, Ramsay has also been picked to be Oxygen clothes' new image model, with almost no effort. "They called me and said they needed a model, so I was pretty lucky," he grinned.

Although the entire population will soon be seeing his face plastered on billboards and magazines in the next few months, this sporty MTV VJ never thought he'd become a model. As a child growing up in Great Britain, he was already being asked to model. "I'd turn down ers," he said.

MODEL/ p.C4

WHAT'S ON AT ROBINSONS
KASIPING
MALL TOUR
Get up close and personal with the stars of Seiko Films' sizzling new movie!
November 27, Wednesday
1:30PM Robinsons Place Manila
5:30PM Robinsons Galleria
November 28, Thursday
1:30PM Robinsons Place Imus
6:30PM Robinsons Place Novaliches
All events to be held at the Robinsons Movieworld lobby.
ROBINSONS Malls
Visit us at www.robinsonsland.com

Simply Fire-Power On Ice
THE SMART Cinema Club

ALBERT R. BROCCOLI'S EON PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS PIERCE BROSNAN AS IAN FLEMING'S JAMES BOND 007
DIE ANOTHER DAY
NOW SHOWING
MTRCB Rating: PG-13

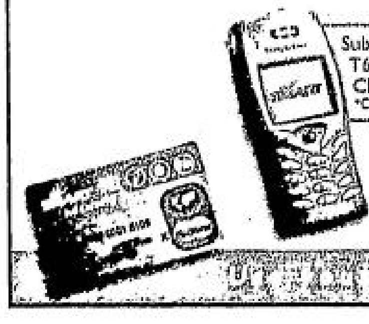
Join the SMART Cinema Club now and access official Die Another Day downloads.
To join, key in **JOIN CINEMA** and send to **239**.
Register to the SMART Cinema Club and download ringtones and polytones of classic James Bond Themes and Madonna's latest hit, "Die Another Day." Simply key in BOND and send to 239 to get the interactive menu only from SMART.

To get Die Another Day...	Key in... and send to 239
Ringtones	TONE <keyword>
Polyphonic Ringtones	POLY <keyword>

Ringtone keywords: DIEANOTHERDAY
BONDTHEME1
BONDTHEME2
Note: All images and ringtones are P15.00 each and are available for selected Nokia handsets only.

SMART Simply Amazing!

Key in BOND and send to 239.

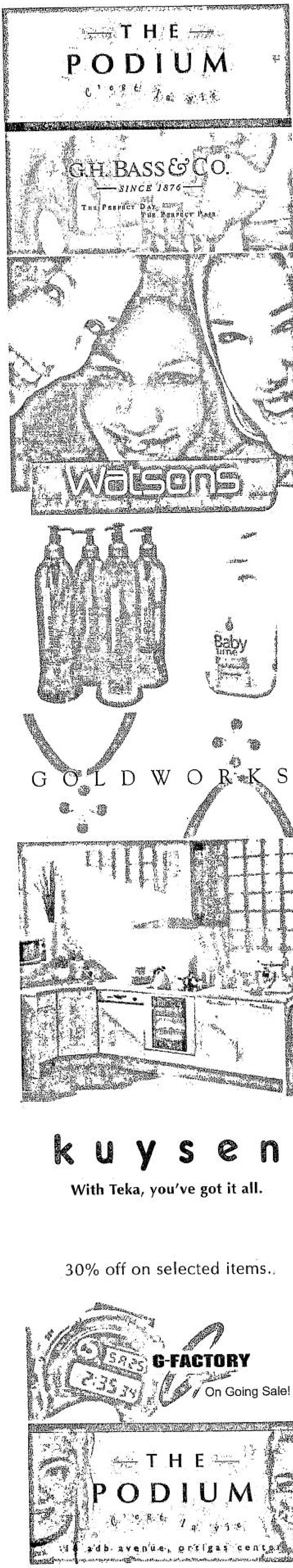


Subscribe to SMART Gold Premium Plan 2665 now and get a limited edition Sony Ericsson T68i for FREE!* The phone kit is packed with a snap-on Spy Torch, a Night Fire game CD, and is loaded with Die Another Day themes, ringtones and MMS images!
*Covered by a 24-month contract period. Promo ends on December 31, 2002. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 5720, Series of 2002
Powered by: Information Gateway
In cooperation with: 20th Century Fox · Cinemas · Sony Ericsson
Log on to jamesbond.com for more details on Die Another Day.
For questions, comments, or concerns, you may call the SMART Hotline at 888-1111, send a text message to 888 (P1.00 per message sent in excess of the FREE TEXT allocation), e-mail us at customercare@smart.com.ph, or visit the SMART Wireless Center nearest you.

FOOD DELIVERY GUIDE
QUICK & EASY WAY TO ORDER
Barrio FIESTA WE DELIVER
FREE DELIVERY SERVICE 372-3720 374-0748 536-3301
Hua Lan Chinese Cuisine
Eat All You Can Weekend Specials!!
LUNCH & DINNER
P 199 - PER PERSON
P 125 - CHILDREN BELOW 4 FT.
TEL. # 896-7838/895-1681/897-5963
Little Caesars 898-7777
Next DOOR
897-1992
899-1893 / 890-3814
Yam Cha FREE DELIVERY 11am to 9pm
373-1359 / 372-3522 / 372-8136
ALSO AVAILABLE EAT ALL YOU CAN Lunch & Dinner over 45 Dishes
For more information pls. Call:
Advertising Dept.
422-9877
For menu list
type CTO (name of rest.)
send to (0917) 521-menu

MENDEZ MEDICAL GROUP
AT YOUR DOORSTEP
• WEIGHT LOSS • BOTOX • WEIGHT GAIN
• DERMAPEAR - Skin Whitening, Acne Peel, Anti-Aging
• PLASTIC & COSMETIC SURGERY
• DENTAL - Braces, Bleaching, Laminate
Please call for more details
Weigh Less Center
373-0766 / 374-2437 / 371-8886
371-8887 / 373-3365 / 373-3366
WEIGH LESS CENTER & SPA, 31-G Roces Ave., Q.C.
WEIGH LESS CENTER BINONDO, 498 San Fernando St., Binondo Tel. 245-4860 / 245-4863
WEIGH LESS CENTER GREENHILLS, 3rd Flr. Shoppesville Plus
PATIENT FIRST MEDICAL CENTER, 3F Mercury Bldg., Glorietta, Makati City
CLINICA MANILA, 2F Bldg. A Shangri-la Mandaluyong City
HEALTHWAY MEDICAL CLINIC, 2nd Flr. Festival Supermall (Pine Forest Entrance)
3rd Flr. The Plaza Bldg. Greenbelt Shopping Center, Makati City
ALL CLIENTS ARE SCHEDULED BY APPOINTMENTS!
E-mail: weighless@pacific.net / Website: www.weighlesscenter.net

BEST COPY AVAILABLE


THE PODIUM

G.H. BASS & CO.
SINCE 1876
THE PERFECT DAY, THE PERFECT PAIR

Watsons

Baby time

GOLDWORKS

kuysen
With Teka, you've got it all.

30% off on selected items..

G-FACTORY
On Going Sale!

THE PODIUM
adb avenue, ortigas center

Young La Salle artists in multimedia show

MULTIMEDIA works by 40 students of the De la Salle University-College of Saint Benilde (DLSU-CSB)will be presented in an exhibit dubbed "Pixel8: Take a Closer Look", Dec. 6-8 at the 3/L, Shangri-La Plaza Mall in Mandaluyong City.

The exhibit will present each student's works during years of training. Each portfolio includes print, desktop publishing, graphic design, 2D and 3D digital animation, video and film production, radio and the Internet.

The show serves as a culmination activity of the students who may soon be joining multimedia or advertising companies.

"Pixel8: Take a Closer Look" is presented by the DLSU-CSB Multimedia Arts Batch 2003, CSB Puso Office, CSB Development and Communications Office, Philmetro.com, Wave 89.1, Big Pix, Transad Advertising Inc., Emergent Media and Yehey.com.

Call 638-6875, 638-6876, (0917) 521-2769, or e-mail blairagero@yahoo.com

Photo-writing contest set

THE GUIDON, the official student newspaper of the Ateneo de Manila University, is holding Between the Lines, Behind the Lenses, a photo and writing contest open to all college students in Metro Manila.

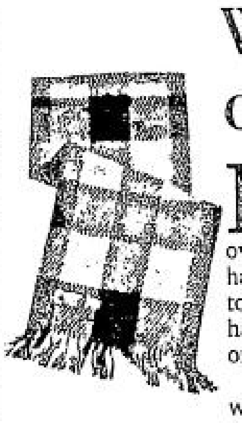
Proceeds of the contest will go to Pamaskong Handog, the publication's annual outreach program. Deadline of entries is Dec. 13. Call 4266001 local 5074, email btl@theguidon.com, or visit http://www.theguidon.com.

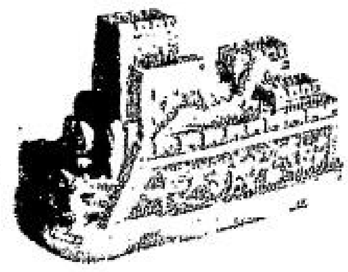
Harry Potter
AND THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS
STICKER ALBUM

STICKY HARRY. Panini Ltd., which released the Care Bears and Transformers sticker albums, is bringing to the country the "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets" sticker album and stickers. Each album contains full-color pages with 240 slots for stickers. The merchandise are exclusively distributed in the Philippines by Emerald Headway Distributors Inc.

2BU! TOUR MEMENTO PROMO

What would you have done on the Great Wall of China?



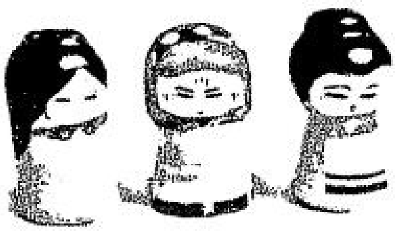


Last week, we asked you to answer this question. Entries poured in from all over the Philippines. Most people had similar ideas—they wanted to take pictures, paint and even have their own fashion pictorial on the Great Wall.

But one entry stood out. And the winner is 20-year-old Jalenie Chua from St. Scholastica's College.

"I'd spend a night on the Great Wall camping, looking at the stars singing 'Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star' in Mandarin."

Chua can claim her prizes at the PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City, on Wednesdays, Mondays and Sundays, from 4 p.m. onwards. Please look for Pam or Ritche.



Canon
PowerShot G3

ENCOUNTER HIGHER INTELLIGENCE.
THE NEW POWERSHOT G3 WITH DIGIC TECHNOLOGY

With the new PowerShot G3, a super smart digital camera is no longer science fiction. Inside its ultra-sleek body is an ultra-advanced DIGIC processor that enhances camera performance in nearly every key area: higher image definition, faster imaging, more precise auto-focusing, to name a few - all of which give you greater flexibility in perfecting each shot. Together with a 4-megapixel CCD, 4x optical zoom and a selection of practical controls, it ensures images of outstanding quality. Optional auxiliary lenses further improve capability while Exif 2.2 delivers high quality photo prints. For a close encounter with the PowerShot G3 powered by Canon's exclusive DIGIC technology, see your nearest dealer today.

4.0 Megapixels • 4X Optical Zoom

Exif Print
POWERED BY DIGIC
BUBBLE JET DIRECT
DIRECT PRINT

For dealer inquiries please contact:
Head Office and Service Centers (Digital Cameras):
CANON MARKETING PHILIPPINES, INC. Marvin Plaza, 2153 Don Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City • Tels.: 812-6047 (Local 247 / 259)
Fax: 810-9797 • E-mail address: info@canon.com.ph • www.canon.com.ph

CMP-Bataan Tel.: (047) 237-2151 • CMP-Cebu Tels.: (032) 345-3680; (032) 345-3821 Fax: (032) 344-6776 • CMP-Davao Tel.: (082) 227-4820 Telefax: (082) 222-3392
CMP-La Union Tels.: (072) 242-4587; (072) 242-0440 • CMP-Legaspi Tels.: (052) 480-6331; 820-2083 Fax: (052) 214-3863

THE Cast of "Subtext"

The subtext of 'Subtext' is that despite communication advances, the potential for miscommunication is still great

WARREN Ison and Clarence Agoncillo as the highschool couple

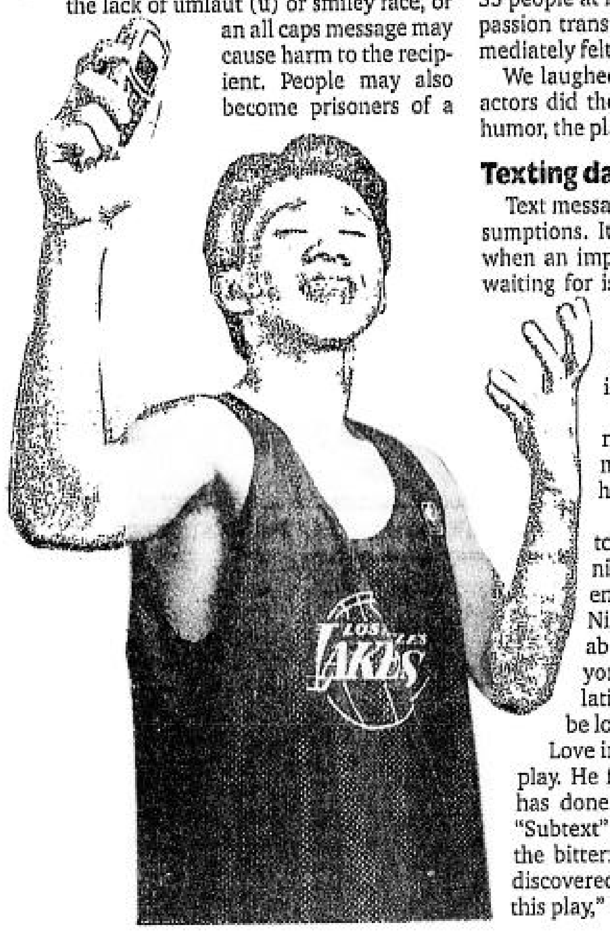
The horrors of texting

By Anne Luisa E. Villarico
2bu! Correspondent

"*I LAB U*" is now worth a peso only. In text messaging, that is. Texting is a fast, quick and an inexpensive medium. If you can't say it, text it.

We wonder, how many romances bloomed because of texting? And who knows, maybe in some instances, marriages have resulted from texting.

But this phenomenon at the tip of our fingers can make or break a relationship. Even the lack of umlaut (ü) or smiley face, or an all caps message may cause harm to the recipient. People may also become prisoners of a system that is meant to keep people in touch with one another all the time.



The dangers of texting are shown in the play "Subtext," Anthony Nathaniel "Niel" De Mesa's one-act play about the text message, its idiosyncratic semantics, and its potential for ruining people. The play won first prize in this year's Don Carlos Palanca Awards for Literature.

There was no stage, no curtains in front; only a round table and two chairs arranged for a fine-dining scene. The place was cramped since it could only accommodate 30-35 people at most. It was so intimate that the passion transmitted from the actors was immediately felt throughout the drama studio.

We laughed at the comedy of texting. The actors did their job well. But more than the humor, the play mirrored our own selves.

Texting dangers

Text messaging may result in erroneous assumptions. It may aggravate one's paranoia when an important reply that one has been waiting for is delayed or ignored. Messages can be misconstrued, and the potential for offending someone and being offended in turn is high.

I know I'm not alone. I'm sure most of the estimated 18 million mobile phone users in the country have experienced this.

"It seems that what has been touted as a faster way of communicating has opened up a new avenue for miscommunication," says Niel, who adds that "Subtext" is about what's said between and beyond the lines. It shows that in a relationship, the determinant may not be love, but clarity.

Love inspired Niel to come up with this play. He fell in love for the first time. He has done plays before, but he considers "Subtext" as his turning point. "Enough of the bitterness, enough of the angst... I've discovered new things brought about by this play," he said. He was humbled by love.

ARLYNNE Lupas-Tecson and Jourdan Sebastian as the lovers

He said he realized that the people around him really love him ,especially his family, and that God is the great lover of his soul.

Niel is the founder of the Koine Theater Foundation, which stages productions and provides performing arts scholarships to poor out-of-school youths. Proceeds of the play will go to the scholarship fund.

Niel has also directed a lot of launches, children's shows, mall shows and musicals, such as "Reviving What was Fame," "Philadelphia," "Sierra Lakes," "Pilandok," "Ala-alamat," "Tiñoso," among others. He teaches literature and theater at De La Salle University-College of St. Benilde.

"Subtext" goes on stage on Dec. 5-7, 12-14, 19-20; and Jan. 4, 11, 18 and 25 at the Quickstep Studio, 2/F, Forab Bldg, Kamuning Road. The play is available for educational touring and corporate functions.

E-mail the author at luifox@corporatedirtbag.com

2nd Consuelo Award given today

THE SECOND Consuelo Award will be given today, 6 p.m., at the RCBC Plaza corner Buendia and Ayala Avenues, Makati City.

Four nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) that have been working for and on behalf of disadvantaged women and children are vying for the award, which is only on its second year.

The Consuelo Award recognizes outstanding NGOs that have made a significant difference in the lives of disadvantaged Filipino children, women and families.

The awards program is named after Consuelo Zobel Alger, founder of the non-profit US-based foundation that bears her name. It honors an NGO that has clearly demonstrated excellence in fulfilling her wish to "renew hope for those who have lost it or to give hope to those who never had it."

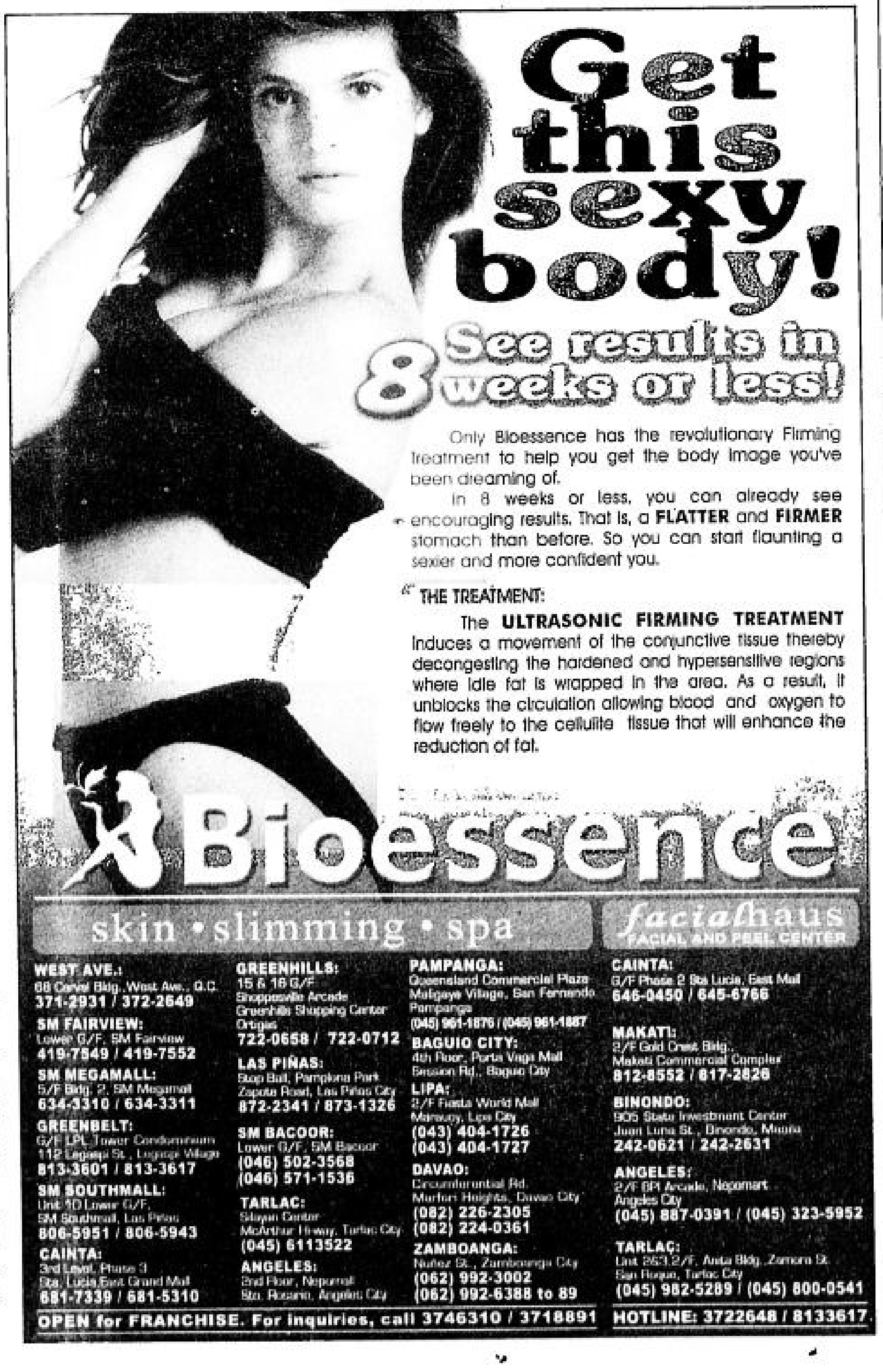
This year's nominees are:

The Don Bosco Tondo Youth Center was set up in 1967 primarily to bring Christ's message to the area and provide young people with opportunities to carve a better future.

Set up in 1987, the Families and Children for Empowerment and Development (FCED) is an NGO organized to respond to the needs of the growing street-children population, specifically in the Paco-Pandacan area of Manila.

The Pangarap Foundation Inc. in Pasay City started as the Pangarap Shelter in 1989 with a simple drop-in feeding program for 14 children in a small rented space. It now reaches out to an average of 300 children every year.

The Social Action Center-Legazpi City (SAC-LC) was established in 1989 as the social action arm of the Catholic Church diocese of the city. It has made child abuse prevention and rehabilitation one of its major concerns.



Get this sexy body!
See results in 8 weeks or less!

Only Bioessence has the revolutionary Firming treatment to help you get the body image you've been dreaming of.

In 8 weeks or less, you can already see encouraging results. That is, a **FLATTER** and **FIRMER** stomach than before. So you can start flaunting a sexier and more confident you.

THE TREATMENT:

The **ULTRASONIC FIRMING TREATMENT** induces a movement of the conjunctive tissue thereby decongesting the hardened and hypersensitive regions where idle fat is wrapped in the area. As a result, it unblocks the circulation allowing blood and oxygen to flow freely to the cellulite tissue that will enhance the reduction of fat.

Bioessence
skin • slimming • spa
facialhaus
FACIAL AND PEEL CENTER

WEST AVE.:
68 Corvel Bldg., West Ave., Q.C.
371-2931 / 372-2649
SM FAIRVIEW:
Lower G/F, SM Fairview
419-7549 / 419-7552
SM MEGAMALL:
5/F Bldg. 2, SM Megamall
634-3310 / 634-3311
GREENBELT:
G/F LPL Tower Condominium
112 Legaspi St., Legaspi Village
813-3601 / 813-3617
SM SOUTHMALL:
Unit 10 Lower G/F,
SM Southmall, Las Piñas
806-5951 / 806-5943
CAINTA:
3rd Level, Phase 3
Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall
681-7339 / 681-5310

GREENHILLS:
15 & 16 G/F
Shoppesville Arcade
Greenhills Shopping Center
Ortigas
722-0658 / 722-0712
LAS PIÑAS:
Stop Ball, Pamplona Park
Zapote Road, Las Piñas City
872-2341 / 873-1326
SM BACOOR:
Lower G/F, SM Bacoor
(046) 502-3568
(046) 571-1536
TARLAC:
Siayan Center
McArthur Hiway, Tarlac City
(045) 6113522
ANGELES:
2nd Floor, Nepomall
Sto. Rosario, Angeles City

PAMPANGA:
Queensland Commercial Plaza
Maligaya Village, San Fernando
Pampanga
(045) 961-1876 / (045) 961-1887
BAGUIO CITY:
4th Floor, Porta Vaga Mall
Session Rd., Baguio City
LIPA:
2/F Fiesta World Mall
Marauoy, Lipa City
(043) 404-1726
(043) 404-1727
DAVAO:
Circumferential Rd.
Marfori Heights, Davao City
(082) 226-2305
(082) 224-0361
ZAMBOANGA:
Nuñez St., Zamboanga City
(062) 992-3002
(062) 992-6388 to 89

CAINTA:
G/F Phase 2 Sta Lucia, East Mall
646-0450 / 645-6766
MAKATI:
2/F Gold Crest Bldg.,
Makati Commercial Complex
812-8552 / 817-2826
BINONDO:
905 State Investment Center
Juan Luna St., Binondo, Manila
242-0621 / 242-2631
ANGELES:
2/F BPI Arcade, Nepomart
Angeles City
(045) 887-0391 / (045) 323-5952
TARLAC:
Unit 263 2/F, Avila Bldg., Zamora St.
San Roque, Tarlac City
(045) 982-5289 / (045) 800-0541

OPEN for FRANCHISE. For inquiries, call 3746310 / 3718891
HOTLINE: 3722648 / 8133617

Femina Forum
PREVENT ida IRON DEFICIENCY ANEMIA

Why women of reproductive age need iron supplements regularly

Iron is a mineral that the body needs to produce red blood cells. When the body does not get enough iron, this could easily lead to Iron Deficiency Anemia or IDA, one of the world's main nutritional and reproductive health problems, affecting 3.5 billion women all over the world. In general, anemia causes fatigue, paleness of the skin, weakness, shortness of breath with only mild exertion, and dizziness. That's why a continuous intake of iron supplements is vital. Which leads us to this question: which is better -- weekly iron tablets like Femina or the prevailing practice of daily iron supplements?

EFFICACY

The efficacy of weekly iron supplementation has been validated by the World Health Organization (WHO). Field and clinical studies comparing weekly with daily iron intakes have demonstrated the efficacy of weekly iron supplementation in improving iron nutrition. The rationale for using weekly iron doses is that the cumulative daily dose rapidly reduces the intestinal absorption of subsequent doses as well as that of dietary iron. The weekly dose schedule is not only a convenient unit of time, but it also provides enough time for our intestinal mucosal cells to absorb the previous dose before we take in the next one. This means that only through weekly supplementation can women of reproductive age store iron and prevent IDA before, during, and after pregnancy. As a result of the said study, the WHO supported preventive weekly supplementation to women even before they conceive.

LESS SIDE EFFECTS

The same studies have shown that the incidence of side effects is less among those taking iron supplements once weekly. In fact, many subjects who were taking iron tablets daily exhibited numerous side effects such as stomach irritation, nausea, vomiting, constipation, diarrhea, etc. Compliance among subjects on a weekly regimen of iron supplementation fared better.

EASY ON THE POCKET

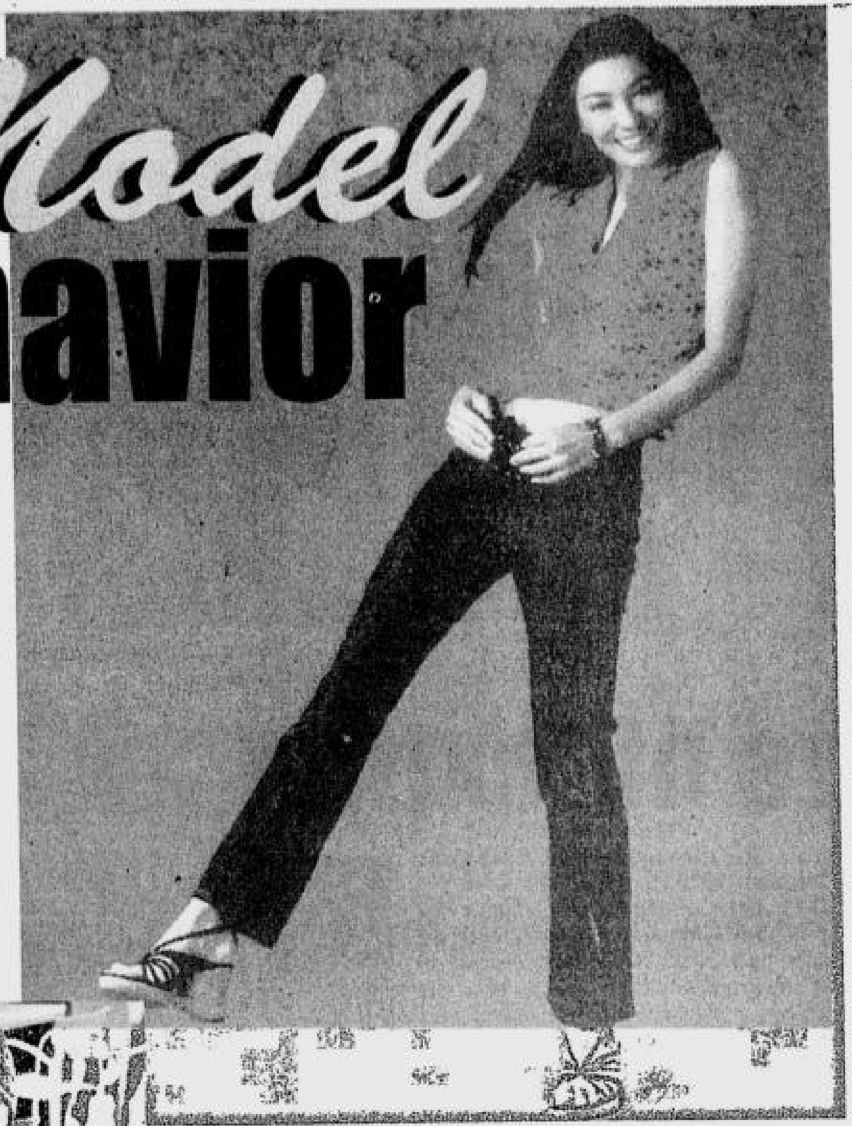
Obviously, the total cost of supplementation is more affordable on a weekly basis compared to a daily (seven times a week) regimen.

Femina is the only breakthrough once-a-week iron-folic acid supplement especially formulated for women of reproductive age. Because of its weekly dosage, Femina is the most cost effective iron-folic acid supplement. Unlike most iron supplements that cost ₱10 to ₱12 per tablet and have to be taken daily, Femina costs only ₱7.00 per tablet. Thus, all a woman needs to spend is ₱1.00 a day, a very small price to pay to ensure the building up of iron stores and to prevent IDA.

Advt.

Model behavior

Derek Ramsay and Nafsika Drossou shatterthe stereotype about models—that they're all looks and no brains



DROSSOU (above) is a civil engineering senior at the University of the Philippines while Ramsay (left) has a double major in electrical engineering and marketing.

PHOTOS: MALII REYES

From page C1

Pro-football dreamer

But fate had something else for him. The soccer player who dreamed of going pro in Europe suddenly busted his knee; doctors said he could never step on the field again.

While on vacation in the Philippines, a casting agent approached him in a hotel lobby. "I turned him down," he said. "I was around 15 then."

Then the very next day, his dad took him somewhere—the casting agent's office. "I went with my dad and the next thing I knew, I saw that same guy from the hotel and I was like, 'Aaaw!'" The rest was history.

Not that Derek doesn't enjoy posing for the camera. The thing is, he's extremely shy, which explains why he doesn't do ramps. And his stint on MTV? "I didn't know it was for a VJ thing," he laughed. "I thought it was for something else, then they made me stand in front of the camera, and then they went, 'Okay, so why do you think you'd make a good VJ?' And I just freaked out! I said, 'Because Sarah Meier is my friend.'"

His straightforward attitude and genuine personality crowned him MTV's newest VJ, and even extended his contract!

Still painfully shy, Derek confessed that it is somehow hard for him to get up in front of an audience every now and then. Although when he does, he refuses to put a mask on for anyone. "What you see is what you get," he said. "I don't want to try to pretend to be anyone else."

Derek also makes no bones about being a rebel when it comes to the business. "I think my manager gets irritated sometimes that I don't follow what I 'should' look like," he said, grinning. "Sometimes I want to be just laid-back and he'll go, 'No! You have to be this,' and I'm just, 'Whatever!'"

Derek is, however, particular about the image he projects for the youth. Being famous does call for pressure, and Derek's not an exception. "It's pretty simple, really. You set a good example for younger kids and everyone should be doing that, not just celebrities."

Which, of course, Derek is; if he weren't one, though, he would probably end up working in his dad's company. "My dad's my best friend," he declared. He said he'd probably be working for him one day.

But don't think the boy has no brains. Contrary to the stereotype that models have all the beauty but lack all the IQ, Derek has a double major--in electrical engineering and marketing. "So I'll definitely end up working in my dad's company!" he jested. "I think that stereotype is stupid. I know a lot of other models who are smarter than the people who say those things."

If anything, Derek both has the brains and the down-to-earth attitude to shatter all stereotypes of celebrity. His family keeps him grounded, and his shy personality and nature keeps him from straying from reality. "I don't even enjoy traveling to the US or Europe anymore," he confessed. "I like it here in the Philippines better." One place he wouldn't hesitate to spend those frequent-flier miles though, would be Jordan or Israel.

So how has fame changed Derek? Aside from the fact that he's grown wiser and has gained knowledge of the world of entertainment, not much. He may have switched musical tastes, chucking out those R&B tunes and settling for some John Mayer, but he's still the same Derek who can finish two whole cheesecakes in a day without getting sick.

Anything else that no one knows about Derek Ramsay? "That I can speak Filipino," he laughed.

Nafsika Drossou

WITH HER slender figure and towering height, Nafsika Drossou has had her own share of magazine covers, runway walks and endorsements. She exudes so much grace and charm, it's easy to hate her. That is, before she gives you a giddy hello, plops down her seat, and starts gabbing away about absolutely anything.

Drossou , standing at 5'10½" (hate her, hate her, hate her!), is the first image model of Penshoppe's new store, Penshoppe Ladies, a new line of clothing that gives off a more grown-up, lady-like feel. This international model (she's half-Greek, half-Filipina, yes, we hate her even more!), who has been on the cover of numerous magazines, was handpicked by Penshoppe for her winning personality and charm. Apparently, the feeling is mutual.

"You know how other models will say that you never get stuff for free? Well, yes, that's true. But Penshoppe really, really takes care of us!" she gushed. "They really pamper us, I'm so grateful."

It was during a night out with friends that Drossou gave modeling a shot, after being introduced to Inno Sotto. She had no idea who the designer was, amid her friends' squeals and amazement. Even before that, Drossou had been offered modeling stints, but she turned them all down. "I didn't think it was the business for me. I think I got all the cards of all the agencies in Manila, but I never called any back."

Perhaps it was because Drossou had her own dreams. As a child, she wanted to become a painter. "I liked the whole Romantic era," she said, "so I think that's why... but I'm terrible with the creative aspect of it, I like the execution more."

Her love for art is not surprising since Drossou grew up in a picturesque environment.

"I grew up in the city, and there were trees everywhere... but as the city was developing, my father could not take it, so we transferred to his hometown." That, being the foot of a mountain, surrounded by little villages that, according to her, were "very graphic and scenic." "A 10-minute walk would land you on the beach, and the opposite direction would have you up on the mountains," she added.

"If you wanted to cut class, you can go up the mountains to one of the villages and have coffee with your friends!"

Did she ever cut class? "No, I didn't, and it's quite sad," she laughed. "We'd always talk about it, but we never did it, and before we knew it, high school was over. But I was always present in class, even if I was sick, I'd still go to school."

Love of school

One thing's for sure about this athletic girl (she was once on the school volleyball varsity and also did ballet)—her love for school. She is taking up civil engineering at the University of the Philippines. She said that if she weren't a model, she would have been a teacher. "My family has a lot of teachers. You have to have a talent for passing knowledge on. I think I have that... but I don't have much patience," she said sadly. "I'm quite direct."

For those who thinks she's just another pretty face, think again. She used to tutor college Math and Physics, and also taught English. "I understand the stereotype that models are dumb. But I don't really think about it. You have dumb people in all kinds of professions."

Drossou is frank about the similarities and differences between Filipinos and Greeks. "We value our families just as much as Filipinos do, only our families are a bit smaller compared to the huge, extended ones."

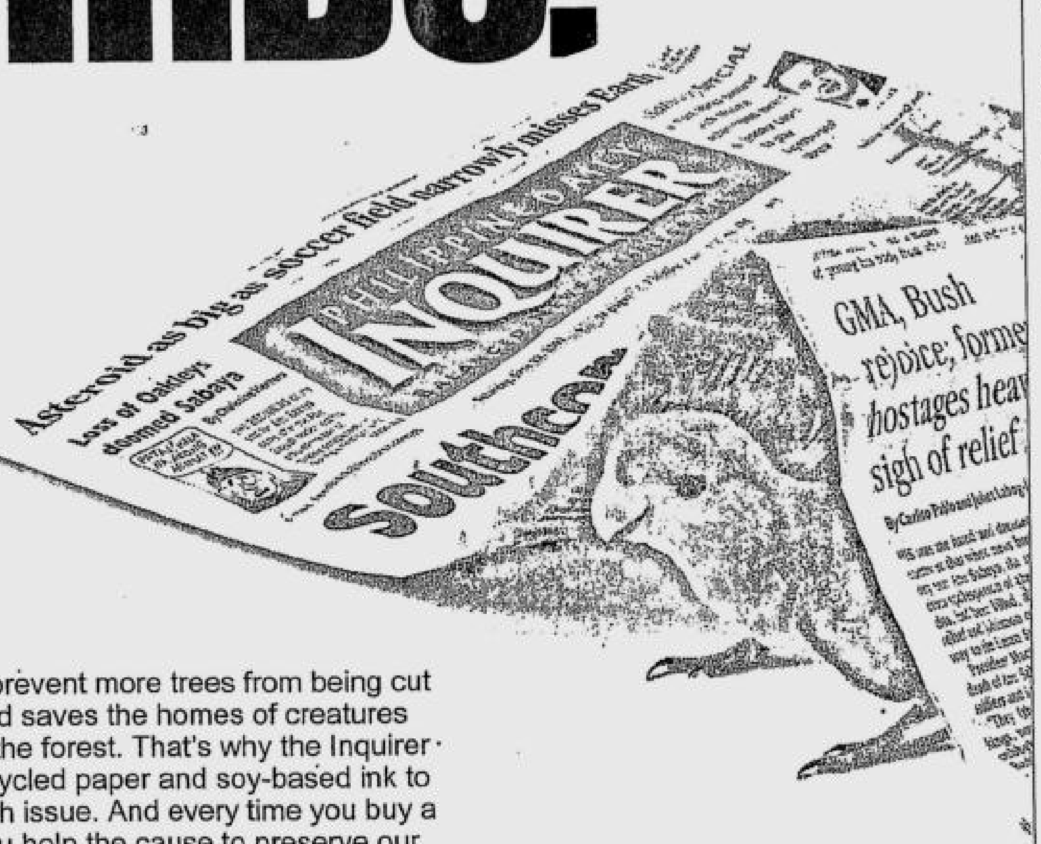
Drossou also observed that Filipinos lack cultural awareness. "People have a blurred idea of what their heritage and past is," she said. "I think that's a bit sad."

Already finishing her senior year in college while squeezing in modeling jobs into her schedule, Drossou surely has a long way to go. Her passion for life has taken her to so many places—she's gone backpacking in Europe, yachting on the Aegean Sea, stopped by Byzantine monasteries and churches, and has scaled the highest mountain in Greece, as well as earned her certificate as an open-water scuba diver.

Is there any other place this girl wants to conquer?

"I'd like to visit the UK again. The people are so diverse and I love it that everyone there calls you 'love'!" she said.

RECYCLING IS FOR THE BIRDS.


PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Asteroid as big as soccer field narrowly misses Earth
GMA, Bush rejoice; former hostages heave sigh of relief
Southern

It helps prevent more trees from being cut down and saves the homes of creatures living in the forest. That's why the Inquirer uses recycled paper and soy-based ink to print each issue. And every time you buy a copy, you help the cause to preserve our forests. But you can do more. Sell us your old newspapers (ANY newspaper, both broadsheets and tabloids) and we guarantee to use them to make our future issues. Because our future is the issue.

NEWSPAPER DRIVE
BECAUSE OLD NEWS IS GOOD NEWS.

LAST DAY FOR SELLING YOUR OLD NEWSPAPERS AND TABLOIDS IS ON NOVEMBER 30

For pick-ups:

Accumulate at least 200 kgs. or 17 ft. tall of old newspapers, and the Inquirer will pick them up from you FREE within Metro Manila. Just call Zane Ronquillo at 897-8808 loc. 209/239. FEP will receive newspapers from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm on weekdays in Makati and 9:00 am to 5:00 pm in Cebu and Davao until Oct. 5, 2002 only

Please drop off your newspapers at the following Inquirer offices:

MANILA: FEP Printing Press loading dock • 3817 Mascardo St. (behind the Inquirer bldg.), Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City • Tel. No.: 896-4286 • Contact person: Yvette Castillo
CEBU: FEP Printing Press • Warehouse #1, Menzi Compound National Highway, Pajo, Lapu-Lapu City Tel. No.: (032) 340-7970 to 71 • Contact person: Lenny Brua
DAVAO: FEP Printing Press loading dock • Bgy. Ma-A, Ma-A Road, Davao City • Tel.No.: (082) 244-1711 to 12 Contact person: Rowena Balandra

Sellers will be paid P3.00/kilo.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
News that makes a difference.

LAST year's winners

The Philippine Web Awards

5 years of Pinoys strutting their stuff on the Net

By Gary Mercado
2bU! Correspondent

PINOYS have the habit of taking particular notice of things we are particularly adept at, partly to celebrate that fact, and partly to make our mark in this world and make a statement. Who among us isn't proud when the world talks of Efren Reyes or Paeng Nepomuceno, both the best in the world in their respective fields?

Even little nuances aren't missed. In the high-tech world of cellular communications, Pinoys send 100 percent more SMS than the next country. That may sound like mere trivia, but the Pinoy takes pride in that fact.

But do you know Filipinos are at par, if not ahead, in a certain industry? And not just any industry, mind you, but the highest-tech of them all—the Internet. Heinz Bulos, editor of The Web Philippines and in charge of this year's Philippine Web Awards, observes that over all, our local websites are comparable to those abroad. In the arts and in banking, for example, we have reached a high level of sophistication." The Pinoy critic in us will find that amazing, although Heinz is quick to point out, "There are sites in certain categories, however, that have yet to be in the same mold as, say, Yahoo or Amazon. But we're getting there."

The Philippine Web Awards has been going strong for the past five years now. The Web Philippines magazine was launched in 1997 to cover the growing Internet industry. "I was the editor at that time, and I thought of getting some publicity for the magazine by having our own version of the (International) Webbys. Besides, we had been reviewing websites since 1996 for PC World, and it was just natural for us to give out awards. The plan was simple—give out awards to deserving Filipino websites," says Heinz.

Since then, the awards have caught fire among local web developers. "In December 1998, at the fully packed Hard Rock Café, we knew we're on to something great," says Heinz. "The event captured the spirit of the Internet. And we have kept evolving, as the Internet has changed through the years."

This year's awards will be held at the Dusit Hotel Nikko in Makati, Nov. 30.

Rough roads

Heinz admits, it has not always been smooth-sailing. "[Nominees] can be quite vocal in questioning the integrity of the awards. Still, some of those who won wonder how they could get the return on the investment they poured when they made their award-winning websites."

The controversy perhaps owes more to pride of work. Designers, after all, are artists given to being sensitive to criticism.

Heinz cautions against this, "Being nominated, becoming a finalist and winning are merely icing on the cake. The Webby awards [is] a way for the industry to recognize their contributions."

Rewards

More notably, the Webby Awards have become a stepping-stone for many web designers and website design companies. Ferdinand "Bhong" Capiña, a freelance web designer who won the "Best Website for Games" for his "NBA Live Shootout" (www.bhong.com) last year, said the recognition has boosted his confidence and his profile in the industry. "At least I have something to put on my resumé other than seminars and extra courses taken," he says.

Although Bhong has been in the web and print graphic design industry for eight years and can attract clients on his own, he feels the award has accorded him renown and respect. "My clients have been assured that they had a good web designer working for them, especially the foreign ones." With a smile, he adds, It also helps justify charging more."

The awards have also given young web designers something to shoot for. It also sets the standards against which companies can measure themselves. Other than the Webbies, for instance, iAcademy, an information technology school located at Ayala Avenue, Makati, has also launched its own website awards targeting high-school kids—this time, with P25,000 as the top prize. Runners-up can win P10,000.

Heinz approves of other attempts to recognize web designers "because students get to develop their skills as well as earn incentives."

Go get yourself an award

Every year, the Webby Awards averages approximately 1,500 entries. Most people, including myself, are floored by that number. Most of us would say, "You mean there are that many Pinoy sites?!"

After the initial shock, you can't help but realize that becoming even a Webby Award semi-finalist, not to mention a finalist and especially a winner, is truly a special honor. One can only imagine the amount of sorting, evaluation, reviewing and re-reviewing judges need to undertake in order to determine the winners.

"We have writers, editors, communication experts and industry leaders who can judge on content; artists, photographers, and web designers who understand design; and programmers, web developers and techies who know usability and functionality," says Heinz. "Each group has its own bias—some would put more importance on content, others on design, and the rest on the code. Mixing them should balance it all out."

I am especially proud of the Webby Awards since I've been a finalist for the past two years. Although I've yet to win, I'm not discouraged. The idea that I'm competing with the best, that it is really and truly possible for someone with nothing but his skill, wits and ability to be chosen among the best, gives me a pride in being recognized by my peers.

SM SUPERMALLS
CHRISTMAS bazaar
Great stuff at great prices
up to 50% OFF on wide selections
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4780 Series of 200
Now thru December 24
MEGAMALL ▲ CITY NORTH EDSA ▲ SOUTHMALL ▲ CENTERPOINT ▲ CITY PAMPANGA ▲ CITY BACOOR ▲ SUPERCENTER SUCAT
CITY FAIRVIEW ▲ CITY MANILA ▲ CITY CEBU ▲ CITY ILOILO ▲ CITY DAVAO ▲ CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
SM City Bicutan opens Nov. 29

SM Appliance Center
MIYATA Japanese Technology
VCD VIDEO KARAOKE disc MP3 300 Games
looks good feels good sounds great

MVD 2002
P3,595
- Portable VCD Player
- Plays VCD/CD/MP3
- With car accessories
- 45-sec anti-shock

MCV-12
P4,795
- VCD Component
- Plays VCD/CD/MP3
- 2-mic input w/ echo
- 300 games
- 1600 watts PMPO

MCV-13
P4,695
- VCD Component
- AM/FM Digital Tuning
- VFD Display
- 1600 watts PMPO
- Plays VCD/CD/MP3
- 2-way 4 speaker system
- with CD Rack

MCV-14
P6,299
- 3 VCD Component
- Double Cassette
- 2-way 4 speaker system
- Plays VCD/CD/MP3
- AM/FM Radio
- 1600 watts PMPO

Available in selected SM Appliance Centers:
SM CITY NORTH EDSA 9279335 • NORTH EDSA ANNEX 9276578 • NORTH EDSA BASEMENT 9272650 SM MAKATI 8161178 • HARRISON PLAZA 5246239 • SM CUBAO 9111159 • SM MEGAMALL 6335075 • SM CENTERPOINT 7150534 • PODIUM 6871215
SM SOUTHMALL 8003512 • SM CITY BACOOR 046-4170258 • SM CITY FAIRVIEW 4176795 • SM CITY CEBU 032-2319132 • SM CITY MANILA 5238593 • SM CITY PAMPANGA 045-9616991 • SUCAT 8297167 • SM CITY ILOILO 033-3206355

Now, text Japan anytime – only with Globe!

finally! nw u dnt feel so fr awy ü hws lunch? txt me wen ur dne- & ez on d wasabi!

Introducing the freshest way to reach loved ones in Japan: Globe's International Text Messaging.

Why save all your news for a phone call? Type in your message and send to +81<area code> <mobile no.>

So for big things or small, the only distance is the one on the map.

Your loved ones in Japan must be registered to receive your text.
Advise them to call (0077) 236-30000 in Japan and register today.

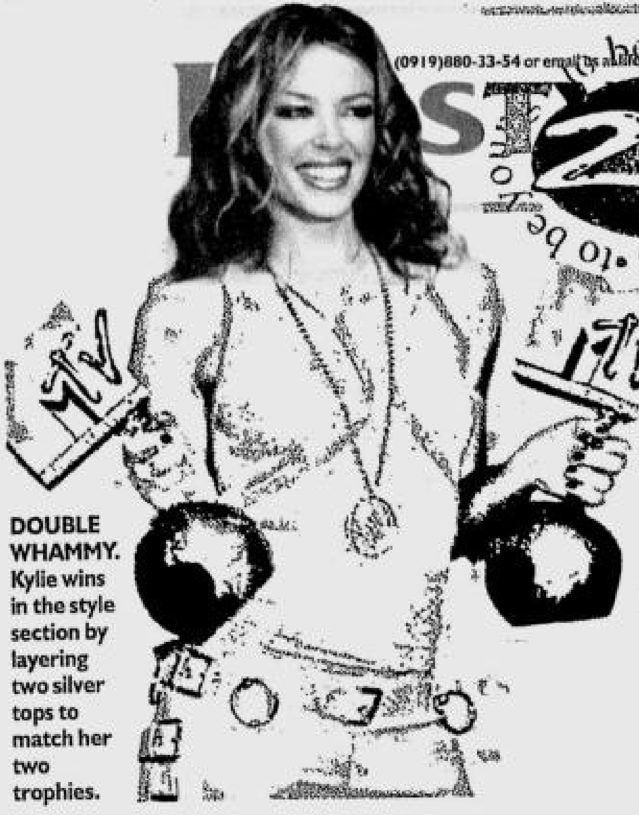
₱10.00 per message sent

For more information, contact the Globe Customer Service Hotline at 730-1000 or 211 toll-free from your Globe Handyphone or visit www.globehandyphone.com.ph

making great things possible Globe HANDYPHONE

(0919)880-33-54 or email to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

2bU! be you • to be young • to be you! • To be you!



DOUBLE WHAMMY. Kylie wins in the style section by layering two silver tops to match her two trophies.

The Foo Fighters cursed, Versace-clad Marilyn Manson said he would have preferred Gaultier, Christina Aguilera romped on the stage looking like a biker-hooker—all in an unpredictable MTV awards show

Fun, frolic and phantasmagoria at the MTV Europe Awards

Tim Yap

BARCELONA—"I thought the rain in Spain stayed mainly on the plain," said bodacious Bond bloke **Pierce Brosnan** backstage during last week's MTV Europe Music Awards 2002. "Not tonight because it's directly over our heads." he quipped with a wink.

It was all that the world's most beloved secret agent, there to present an award, could muster. Well, die another day then, for this year's awards was a fun freak show of celebrities and surprises that only our favorite music channel could pull.

Pink came with her mother. **Eminem** won an arm-wrestling contest backstage. **Nick Carter's** forehead was plastered with the question "what happened to boy bands?" Three men stripped before **Kylie Minogue** to determine who had the best bottom. **Wyclef Jean** was asked who had better hosting skills, him or **P. Diddy**. And **Marilyn Manson** took part in a goth-look contest. The partyphiles present asked which after-party was going to be hotter, Eminem's or P. Diddy's—all that and more tidbits to raise the temperature and arouse the curiosity of even the most clueless non-music groupie (that's me) on this planet.

Yes, thousands of music lovers from all over the world flocked to the booming and bustling city of Barcelona (not to mention one billion viewers who tuned in to the telecast), then headed straight to the Palau Sant Jordi to watch

FUN/D2

CLEANING out his closet and grabbing his crotch. Now, momma can be proud of Eminem.

GANGSTA LOVIN. Best R&B winner Alicia Keys with Yaparazzi in Barcelona, Spain.

CHROME

Candle Holders

◆

Gift Items

◆

Furniture

CHROME DAZZLER
Since 1962
67 P. Tuazon Blvd., Cubao, Quezon City
721-2961 • 721-3174 • 415-9375 • 415-9381

Tawag na with Talk 'N Text 40¢/min. IDD, to join

TALK 'N TEXT™ GSM

hello DOLLAR$!

FEDERAL RESERVE NOTE
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
500
THIS NOTE IS LEGAL TENDER FOR ALL DEBTS, PUBLIC AND PRIVATE
SERIES 2001
8 WINNERS OF FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS
EVERY WEEK!

Over $30,000 total prize money!
The more you call,
the more chances of winning!
For every minute, may raffle entry ka!*

40¢** per minute IDD
All Day, All Night
All Countries

PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO. 4570, SERIES OF 2002.

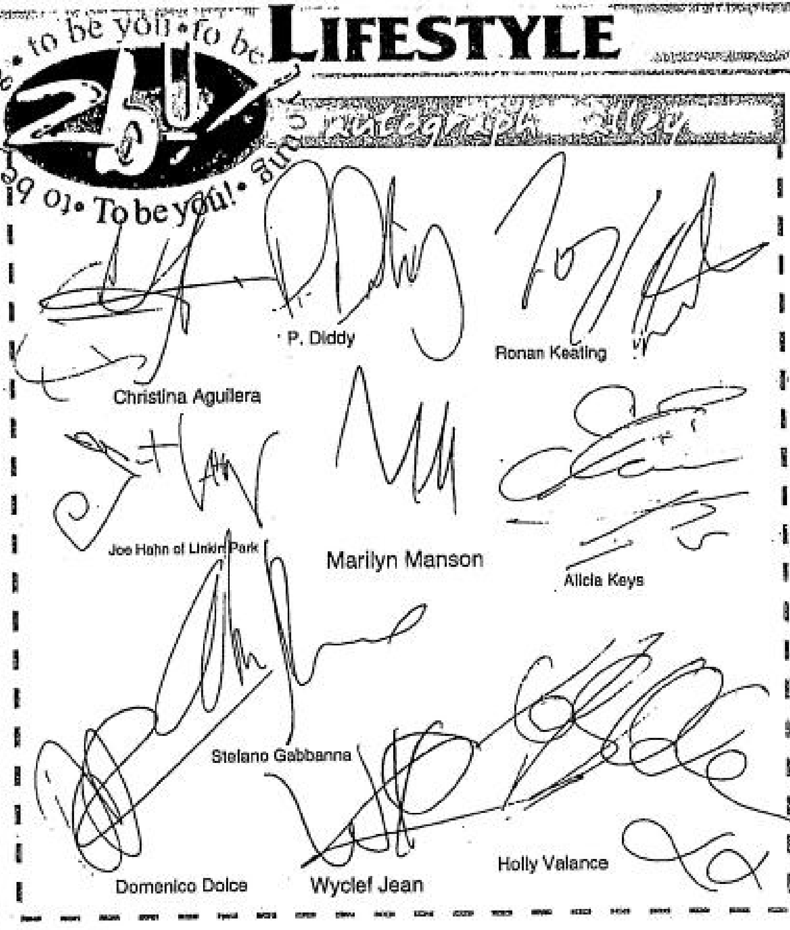
*Minimum of 3 minutes per call to join. **In US Dollars.
See posters and flyers for details. Promo period: November 15, 2002 - January 10, 2003

Yan ang galing without overspending!

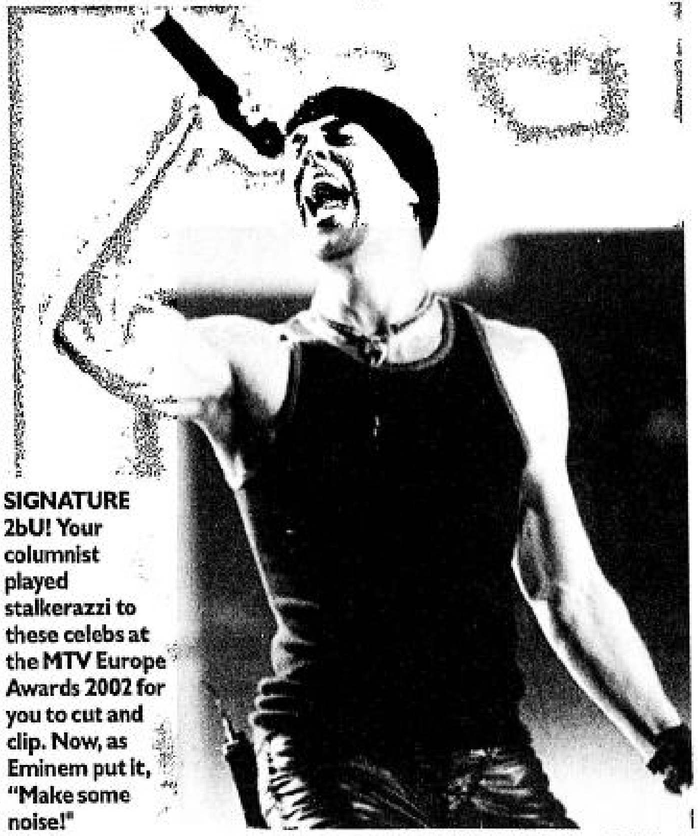
SMART

For inquiries, please call (02)888-1111(GMA), 1-800-888-1111(VIS/MIN) or *888 from your Talk 'N Text cellphone.

THE PARTY'S STARTED. Pink continues to rise on the hot, hot, hot charts.



SIGNATURE 2bU! Your columnist played stalkerazzi to these celebs at the MTV Europe Awards 2002 for you to cut and clip. Now, as Eminem put it, "Make some noise!"



LATIN LOVE. Enrique Iglesias' sweaty seduction

PIMPIN PARK. Christina Aguilera sizzles in leather and lovelace during her performance.

HIS LOVE DON'T COST A THING. P. Diddy, the night's host, signing on.

DESTINY'S CHILD. MTV London veejay Ina at the after-party

NORTH PARK. Joe Hahn of Linkin Park accepted the band's two awards.

Fun, frolic and phantasmagoria at the MTV Europe Awards

From page D1

MTV's biggest extravaganza of music and glitz-iz personalities this side of Europe. I flew fast-forward through KLM's fun skies and before I knew it, The Star's resident music meister **Igan D' Bayan** and I were backstage right where the action was. Well, we were waiting for the action, as we watched everything from a large screen and waited for the celebs to pass by the press room.

Flamenco frolic

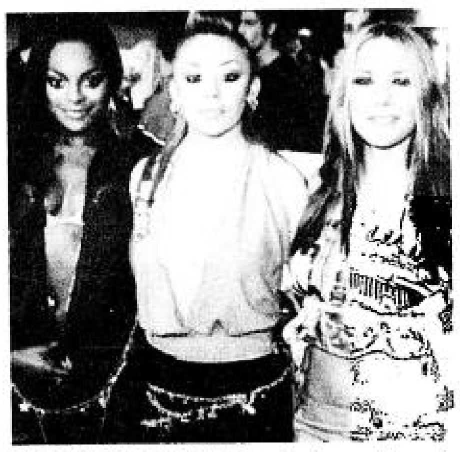
Outside, on the red carpet, stars made their entrances as a fiesta of flamenco fancy frolickers fanned their fumes of fame (I just love those "f" words). Coldplay arrived in T-shirts and a cap, while Jade Jagger outshone the others with her "bling blings." **Pamela Anderson** didn't need any diamonds as she flaunted her best and most obvious assets (and believe me, they looked even bigger in person—she is truly larger than life). Interestingly enough, the Spanish MTV veejay who was doing the rounds of interviews by the red carpet and backstage was a trannie named **Deborah Hombres**, who had a striking resemblance to **Hillary Swank**. And the English translation of her (or his) name is "the girl who eats men."

Spanish sexy sensation **Las Ketchup** serenaded the wet (because of the rain) audience outside. I asked my Español colleague why the name. He told me that their father was a famous flamenco singer called "El Tomato"—thus her daughters were named "Las Ketchup." How sweet.

Mel C of the former Spice Girls made an appearance, as did British superstar **Robbie Williams**, who made the crowd scream their lungs out.

Speaking of entrances, "P. Diddy's entrance has been the talk of the town," said an MTV veejay from London. Nothing much really—a giant shadow onstage, with the word "Barcelona" on a Hollywood-like center spot, then the singer coming out. "Ola Barcelona!" And the crowd went crazy.

On the fashion front, the music stars all made the effort to spruce themselves up—or down. **Alicia Keys** wore a black gown with panels and a fringed shawl by Dolce and Gabbana, one of the night's main sponsors, along with American Express and Vodaphone. (In Asia, it is co-sponsored by Sony Ericsson.) She also won the best R&B award.



SWEET THREESOME. Sugababes on the red carpet

Hookerwear

Pink wore a deconstructed crisscross corset with bomber pants—with attitude. She didn't have a fancy entrance like she did aboard a motorcycle during the MTV Asia Awards. That razzmatazz was reserved this year for **Christina Aguilera**, who romped onstage on a big bike, wearing straps of leftover leather from a wallet. She could have won "Best in Hookerwear."

Pamela Anderson wore Collette (do they have enough cloth to cover her up?). **Holly Valance** victoriously paired a Missoni gown with yellow socks, while Spanish supermodel **Esther Cañadas** wore a **Roberto Cavalli** with dragon embroidery at the tail. For the men, **Ronan Keating** chose an olive green **Armani** suit while Eminem preferred to stay comfy sporty in a Nike hooded jacket.

Marilyn Manson was in a **Versace** suit, "But I prefer **Jean Paul Gaultier**," he said without batting a false eyelash.

Best new act **The Calling** were in Diesel and Energie, **Wyclef Jean** came in Gatsby, while P. Diddy had about five outfit changes. The fashion quote of the night was when a media person asked the **Foo Fighters** about their tie. **Dave Groehl** of the Foo Fighters answered, "It's Burberry—I'm a man's man, mother f#*cker!" On the other hand, **Moby** had such a stunning yet down-to-earth presence, almost spellbinding that I was stopped in my tracks. "Let's not get caught up in chaos," he said. "The world's a complicated place to live in and yet human beings are really simple."

All in all, it was a ball. From the overly sympatico Italian balladeer to the French-kissing all female Russian duo, to the too-big-for-their-britches British superstars. Pamela Anderson put it best while she giggled and jiggled on the red carpet, "It's so much more fun here than in America!"

Now Generation

This week, expect a plethora of events tailor-made for the stylish partyphile in all of us. Tonight at Mati is **Gutsy Tuason**'s latest exhibit of environmental works with music by **Anton Ramos**, as part of "The Chillout Project."

Friday, prepare for a whole deluge of hip happenings all over town. "The Mummy Returns," an "experiential pyramid," opens at the Power Plant at Rockwell. And again at Mati, **Cris Albert** launches the **Donita Rose** line of Fila wear via a hot, hot all-nighter. The show will also introduce the latest **Schumacher** shoe. "Racy red," Cris says about the night's dress code, with a naughty wink. That night, NBK brings back **Paul Van Dyk** as he weaves music mayhem at the 37th floor of the Enterprise Center.

Friday's fashion highlight starts from 4 p.m. onwards, as GenTXT presents "The Now Generation"—a holiday collection with hourly shows for the fashionista in all of us. Here is the schedule: Giordano at 4 p.m., Sub at 5 p.m., Buffalo at 6 p.m., and Billabong at 7 p.m. Joey Espino is directing. The after-show party is at The Elbow Room and at The Podium. Lucky GenTXT members can win P20,000 worth of the latest wardrobe, makeovers and the chance to model at the after-show party. So, "R U 1 F US?"

ROCK N ROLL. D&G's Stefano Gabbana and Domenico Dolce

GREAT GATSBY. Wyclef Jean with Yaparazzi

PHOTOS: TH YAP

BLIGHTY'S BEST. Robbie Williams, superstar, does Elvis the pelvis.

SERVE HOT. Best UK act Coldplay at the after party with Yaparazzi

NEW ACT. The Calling—up and coming

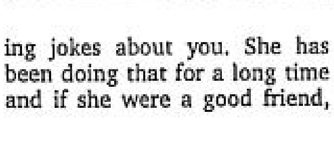
ANASTACIA has paid her dues.

The Winners of the 2002 MTV Europe Music Awards are:

Best Male: **Eminem**
Best Female: **Jennifer Lopez**
Best Pop: **Kylie Minogue**
Best Group: **Linkin Park**
Best New Act: **The Calling**
Best Live Act: **Red Hot Chili Peppers**
Best Song: **Pink "Get The Party Started"**
Best Album: Eminem "The Eminem Show"
Best Dance: Kylie Minogue
Best Hip Hop: **Eminem**
Best R & B: **Alicia Keys**
Best Rock: **Red Hot Chili Peppers**
Best Hard Rock: **Linkin Park**
Best Video: **Royksopp "Remind Me"**
The Web Award: **Moby www.moby.com**
Free Your Mind Award: **FARE (Football Against Racism in Europe)**

The MTV Europe Music Awards 2002 premieres on MTV Philippines (Channel 41) on November 30 at 9 p.m., with a repeat on December 1 at 2 p.m.

Her best friend makes brutally frank jokes about her



Carlos Garchitorena & September Mabino

DEAR Sep and Caloy,

I don't know how to deal with what my best friend has been doing to me. She is always frank about what she thinks of me, to the point of being brutal. She says that she's only being real to me, that's why she's so honest, and I appreciate that. However, I get hurt, too, by what she constantly says about my appearance sometimes.

Also, she likes to make jokes and comments about me, my weight specifically. She's only kidding when she accidentally says something in fun and I think she doesn't mean me harm, but it also hurts sometimes when the last thing you want to hear is something negative about your physical build.

I appreciate my friend and I enjoy her company and sense of humor. But I also feel resentment when she says negative things about me, even when she says sorry afterwards. What must I do?

SUZE

One thing you can do is to stop believing that your friend is really sorry for "accidentally" making jokes about you. She has been doing that for a long time and if she were a good friend, she'd know somehow that you don't always approve and appreciate of what she does, and take the hint. Stop letting her get away with demeaning you and then insincerely apologizing for it, only to do the same thing again later. Also, don't believe that people accidentally say things that they don't mean. The jokes that your friend makes about you are in no way harmless in intent. I'm sure that she has thought about your weight, enough to make jokes about it, and even though she says them merely in fun, there's no denying that the jokes do hurt you. No one can simply "un-say" something that they've already said out in the open; no one can undo a damage that has been done already. You must let your best friend know that her jokes have to stop. It's time to be frank with her.

You should also bring up the way she hurts you when she's being "honest" about your appearance. I, for one, don't believe that you should believe everything that she tells you about yourself. You yourself need to change so you wouldn't put too much importance on a friend's mere opinion. Sure, she is your best friend and her words have significance for you, but she does not have the authority to say an absolute truth. Besides, there is a very thin line between being honest out of concern and being tactless and cruel; I believe your friend has crossed that line too many times. You better tell her about it before her words do more damage to you.

SEP

Editor's note: Caloy wasn't able to send his reply on time.

Flirting, singlehood, love . . . and everything in-between

By Lisa S. Marfori Sobreviñas
2bU! Correspondent
Ateneo de Manila University

FLR 101

It all started out as a joke. In the Ateneo de Manila University last semester, a group of college girls came up with an imaginary course they wished a school would offer: Introduction to Flirting Techniques and Strategies (FLR 101).

During a school break, the girls asked Sandy (one of the few "un"-single girls in the group) for "tactics" in catching the attention of their crushes. Sandy soon became the moderator of FLR 101. Attended by single college juniors aged 19 to 20, FLR 101 "classes" meet at the downstairs cafeteria of Ateneo's Gonzaga Building whose blue chairs and blue-and-white checkered tiles add to the dreamy ambience when the girls start talking about snagging a crush or non-existent dream guy.

"The very first thing Sandy taught us was the 'Look-and-Look-Away' technique of catching our crushes' eyes," Terry says. How's that? "When you first look at (your crush) and he sees you, quickly look the other way then look at him again and smile!" Rika explains.

A typical FLR 101 class starts with each girl sharing the latest "developments" (like *kilig* moments with her crush or how she established contact with him). After every girl has spoken, the moderator gives tips on flirting with guys. Sometimes, if there's a "guest speaker" (usually a guy *kabarkada* or sometimes a couple), FLR students get to ask questions like: "What do guys like in girls? What do they hate?"

The class ends with a practicum where they put into practice what they have learned. Tara, a former FLR 101 student who recently graduated from the course ("*May* boyfriend *na kasi siya, eh!*" Cathleen happily reports), recalls that she used to do her practicum in the cafeteria while the rest of her FLR 101 classmates looked on. "I'd talk to my [former] crush then I'd go back to the table and they'd give me constructive criticism... like what I did wrong, what I did right."

Sometimes they talk about guys' body language, too. Sandy says that when a guy is attracted to a girl, his toes or shoulder blades are toward her. "Wow, so attracted *pala sya sa akin?!*" Rika jokes (referring to her bespectacled crush who shall be nameless).

Before you think that these girls are too aggressive for their own good, Terry says they do what they do for fun and because they've got nothing to lose. Isabel adds, "Flirting is self-gratifying *rin naman, eh!*"

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

Evolution

Everyone laughs at the memory of how FLR 101 came to be. "What a far cry the old syllabus is from the new one," Rika says after the laughter dies down.

As the school year moves into the second semester, the imaginary course has evolved into what is now called Flirting, Love and Relationships 101.

In the new FLR 101, girls get to vent their frustrations with boys (like "Why can't they commit?" or "Why is basketball the center of their universe?"), they get to gripe about disappointing dates, cry over, um, many things, and laugh even more about um, the things that made them cry.

In the class, you get to say not just what's on your mind but, most importantly, what's in your heart. You can say anything and everything you think and feel without worrying that you'll be judged or made fun of. The class has helped many girls unburden their weary souls and heal their broken hearts. "It's therapy for free... and it's fun... you get to talk about your ex, your crush, your ex-crush... *lahat*! It's an outlet for us singles!" Cathleen offers.

And what about people's impression that they're just bitter girls with no boyfriends? That they're desperate? "This is a girl affirmation group, excuse me!" Cathleen quickly retorts. "*Hindi naman namin sila pinapakialaman, eh*. This is just like a class that's also a support group."

"If guys have their male bondings, *kami rin*!" Rika adds.

Sandy says that neither the old nor new FLR 101 was created to bash the opposite sex. "We just give vent [to our feelings] in this class whenever the need arises."

Cathleen adds that "it's in our nature to talk about and dwell on things." Simply put, FLR101 is just girl-talk with a name. It doesn't aim to hurt anyone but to heal.

Incurable romantics

Like many other students of FLR 101, I am an incurable romantic. But I don't think FLR 101 idealizes. We don't see love through rose-colored glasses, so to speak. We know its painful parts. We talk about it. We acknowledge its presence. We have felt it. We've met it. While romance never admits the dismal, hurtful things love brings, FLR 101 does.

I clearly remember the day Sandy, Terry and Kathy asked me if I wanted to join FLR 101. We were in the cafeteria and they were trying to cheer me up because at that time, the guy I was seeing felt he "wasn't ready for a relationship" and wanted to "meet new people."

Not knowing what I was getting into, I accepted the invitation. Anything to keep myself busy and move forward, I thought.

Rika describes FLR 101 best when she says, "This class is an ego booster. We get to comfort each other. We console each other *pag may* feel bad *sa amin*." Terry adds, "You know, for break-ups, FLR 101 offers special classes, too! *May* Package A where you're allowed to vent, cry as much as you like, swear... it's for those who haven't accepted it's really over... it's for those still in denial, *yung mga sarado pa yung utak*."

Every girl gets to move on to Package B at her own pace. At this point, there already is some sort of acceptance. "*Nagiging* open *na yung utak ng tao na 'oo nga*, it's really over!' She entertains the opinions of others *na* and thinks about what went wrong and slowly accepts it. *Pero nandun pa rin yung sakit*."

Package C, according to Rika, "is when you learn to forgive in order to heal; when you gain back yourself. This is when you know you've bounced back! When you know for sure that when God takes someone away from you, it's only because He'll give you someone better!"

Terry smiles at me and says "*Ikaw nga, eh! Lampas* Package C *ka na!*" And we all wear this grin for reasons only true friends who love each other will understand.

Love

When I was 17, I read a book titled "Living, Loving and Learning" by Dr. Leo Buscaglia. Excluding my textbooks, it's one of the first books whose words I ever dared highlight and whose pages I ever folded to remind me of the beautiful thoughts on life and love. Especially love.

Who doesn't like talking about love? It's a classic theme. I never get tired talking about it or listening to friends rave (sometimes rant) because I always learn something new.

Buscaglia is an Italian who lives in California, USA, and teaches Love, 1A, at the University of Southern California. Can you believe it? Love, 1A, is a real class in an actual university in the US! (I wonder how he grades his students.)

In many ways, FLR 101 today is like Buscaglia's Love, 1A, without a professor, a classroom and (this is the best part) grade requirements. Many times I feel as if FLR 101 is a mix of my Theology and Philosophy classes, which boggles the mind and heart in a good way.

I like to talk about love because when you think about it, what could be more important? Aside from my faith and my family, it's my true friends who've helped me realize that. Prayers, family bondings and FLR 101 have made me a better, not bitter, person.

More than the FLR 101 classes, it's the people who have made a difference in my life. Healing is faster when you are showered with so much love. In FLR 101, nobody actually teaches anyone how to love. A person learns for himself how to love.

Names have been changed to protect the privacy of the girls

"Living, Loving and Learning" by Dr. Leo Buscaglia is available in bookstores

E-mail the FLR class at flr_101@hotmail.com

E-mail the author at lisastrip@hotmail.com

FLR 101 class discussion

IN ONE FLR 101 discussion, the class was talking about exes and if they can be friends at all. Here are some excerpts:

(Just seconds ago, the group found out that Anne's ex-boyfriend gave her a CD containing mushy songs.)

Anne: It means nothing, okay? He probably feels guilty about dropping me, I don't know. He's just being nice to me.

Isabel: Ahh... *kasi nga "friends" kayo?*

Rika: Easy for him to say, "Let's be friends!" *kasi sya ang nang*-reject!

Sandy: Wait, *di ba* you were the one who broke up with him?

Terry: Yeah, but she went back in less than a month and asked for another chance... to fix things, *di ba*, Anne?

Sandy: *Ah... Tapos inayawan ka na nya* when you were asking to give it another try?

Anne: Uh-huh. *Pinagsawaan na ako, eh.*

Isabel: So *anong ginagawa mo ngayon?*

Anne: *Eh ano pa nga gagawin ko? Magpaka*-bitter? *Ayoko nga! I'm past denial and anger...*

Cathleen: *Ay basta*, don't assume that things he tells you and stuff he does for you mean anything. *Ayokong umasa ka sa wala*, Anne.

Anne: *Ako rin naman, eh. Kaya nga hindi na ako umaasa...*

Cathleen: Are you guys talking to each other?

Anne: Not really. What for? *Parang* all's been said and done *na, eh. Nagmakaawa na ako't lahat, ayaw pa rin nya ako tanggapin, eh. Mga "hi", "hello" na lang* when we see each other.

Sandy: *Yun naman pala, eh*, so it's really over *na*!

Rika: Yeah, he's seeing na nga someone new, *di ba*?

Anne: Aah... okay. I don't really want to hear that right now. Stop telling me info about him, okay? Please don't talk about him in my presence. He's not my business nor responsibility anymore.

Isabel: Yeah, okay. Besides, I doubt you'll still like him after you see how much he smokes now. *Lakas na nya mag-yosi!*

Anne: Yeah? *Nung kami naman hindi na siya nagyoyosi ah*. I thought he stopped *na*.

Isabel: Well, he's back in the habit. I think he stopped *nung kayo pa* for you, because he knew *ayaw mo ng yosi* boys. You tamed him *kasi, eh*.

Anne: I never set out to tame him, you know. I took him for what he was. *Parang*... what did St. Exupery say? "Love is the process of my leading you gently back to yourself."

Cathleen: *Hay, hayaan mo na sya*, Anne. *Kung saan sya masaya, di ba?*

Anne: Yeah, I know. I guess things could be worse. At least I made a friend through him. *Kamusta kayo ng* feeling cool *mong* ex?

Cathleen: *Ayon...pinakilala na nya sa akin yung bago nyang* chick *kahapon*! I walked in on them while making *lambuchichi*!

Isabel: Nooo!

Cathleen: Ouch *di ba*?

Anne: Wait, he's with this new girl, eh, the other night *lang* he was telling you you're the ideal girl, the ideal wife *achuchuchu...*

Terry: And didn't he invite you for ice cream or something a couple of days ago?

Cathleen: *Ewan ba!*

Sandy: *Ah... baka dahil* feeling *nya* friends *na kayo kaya* he can tell you lies like "you're the ideal girl... it's not you who has the problem, it's me!" while hitting on some other chick!

Cathleen: *Malamang... Pero* hello, *di ba*? How can we be real friends *kung nasasaktan ako tuwing magkukwento sya* about his new girl?

Anne: I guess *masakit pag mahal mo pa yung tao...*

Sandy: *Sabagay, parang* even if you try to be friends, *dahil* ex *nyo ang isa't isa*, there are some things you won't talk about...

Terry: Yeah... like the new people you love or the new people you're dating. *Parang* taboo *nga yun ano*? But real friends are supposed to be able to talk about anything!

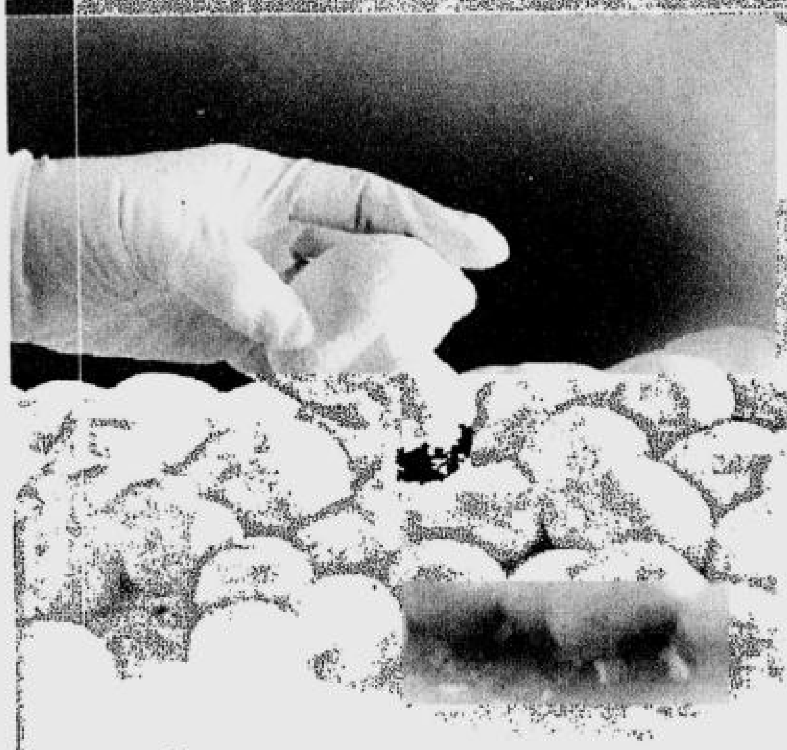
Cathleen: *Kaya nga...* so I guess *may* boundaries *pa rin yung "friendship" with your ex.*

Anne: Yeah. *Pero* I'm sure in time *pwede na maging* friends *ang* exes... As in really, really friends.

Terry: *Pag may nahanap na silang bago?*

Anne: *Oo*. Or *pag tanggap na ng* rejected party that it's really over *at* happy *pa rin sya kahit ganun ang* turn of events.

Anne: Believe me, it has. And there's a certain peace that comes with it. ***Lisa S. Marfori Sobreviñas***



Exposure to bare skin can be fatal.

Call it the supermodel syndrome, but our mushrooms simply don't like the sun. Instead, they prefer the underside of a rotting tree trunk. Or a standard issue 4 x 6 wooden bed.

At least that's where Dave Tadge grows them. Row after row of round, firm, juicy button mushrooms. He looked for a prime specimen and rubbed it against his forearm. I thought a genie would appear. Rather disappointingly, its smooth surface (the mushroom's, not Dave's) developed a curious wrinkly texture.

Mushrooms are terribly sensitive. He explained. Towards light. Temperature. Skin. We take great care to preserve their appearance. Heaven forbid if a worker turns up without gloves. Dave is very touchy (pardon the pun) about these things.

That night, I stared at my mushroom soup. It was the same wholesome goodness enjoyed everywhere since the Campbell's folks discovered mushrooms. Still, I had a nagging thought and phoned Dave.

What happened to the poor mushroom, the one that touched your skin? I enquired. Oh, we had to let it go. He replied. A small sacrifice. Hmmm ... That gives me an idea for an ad. At least it didn't perish in vain.

MADE FROM 100% PASSION
Campbell's
Cream of
Mushroom

Youth, death and waste

Review

The Virgin Suicides
By Jeffrey Eugenides
Abacus Books

By Anne Rose A. Elicaño
2bU! Correspondent

"OBVIOUSLY, Doctor, you've never been a 13-year-old girl."

This was the only explanation Cecilia Lisbon gave for slitting her wrists in the bathroom. It is clear from the onset of Jeffrey Eugenides' "The Virgin Suicides" that Cecilia and her sisters will eventually succeed at suicide and that they will not be leaving any clear-cut explanation to reveal their motives. All that they will leave behind are bits and pieces of their lives—Cecilia's diary, Mary's cosmetics kit, Lux's brassiere, Bonnie's candles, Therese's biology specimen slides, and family photographs.

A group of neighborhood boys, fascinated by the elusive Lisbon sisters, fuse these "exhibits" with their memories of the girls (composed of treasured chance encounters and innocent stalking) as they try to determine the cause of the suicide, always hoping that a bigger, clearer picture will materialize after they put together the pieces of the puzzle. Their findings will always be vague and hazy, but that seems to be the point of the author.

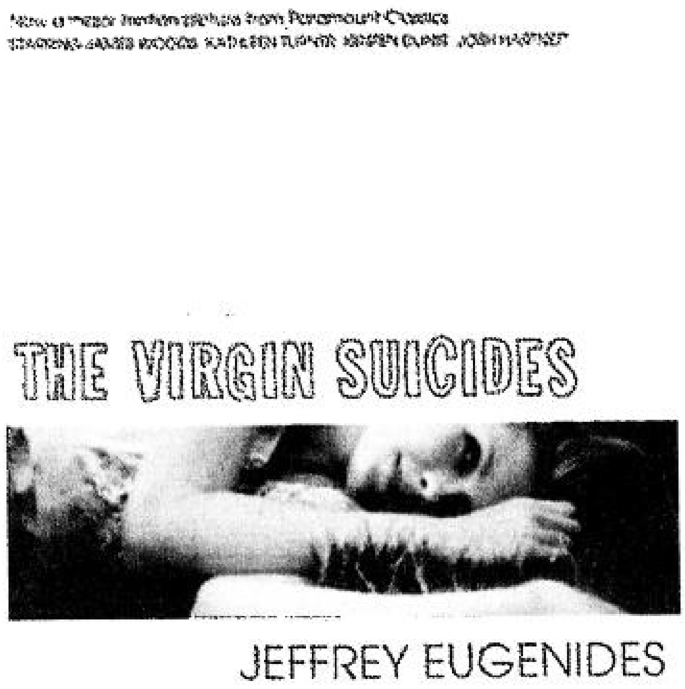
This is not so much a story about the true cause of suicide, but about how the Lisbon sisters' deaths would forever haunt the people who have come within the purview of their truncated existence.

Compelling

What makes this novel so compelling is its treatment of angst and suicide. Such themes are shadowy by themselves but it becomes even more disturbing because the people involved are teenagers—young, golden girls of the archetypal American suburb in the '70s. Readers, just like the narrator (one of the boys enthralled), will never understand the angst but will be perpetually affected by it.

The Lisbon girls become looming, lingering presences of hidden sadness and pain in the relatively cheerful world of high school baseball games and homecoming dances.

"The sisters walked with poise down the halls, carrying books over their chests and staring at a fixed point in space we couldn't see. They were like Aeneas, who had gone to the underworld, seen the dead, and returned, weeping in the inside," writes Eugenides.


THE VIRGIN SUICIDES
JEFFREY EUGENIDES

'The Virgin Suicides' provides intriguing clues to the self-inflicted deaths of young people

Dark, foreboding writing is expected from a novel that is centered on something as morbid as suicide, but "The Virgin Suicides" proves otherwise. There is much wryness and dry wit as the narrator remembers the travails kids in the 1970s faced as they became adults. The ironies are dramatic and interesting at the same time.

In an attempt to reach out to the Lisbon sisters, the neighborhood boys call them up. No words are spoken between the two groups, there is only an exchange of scratchy songs by Cat Stevens and Elton John played on the turntable. It was through these means that the Lisbon sisters communicated their growing isolation, and the boys' attempts show them that they were there. The rest of the novel reads clearly and resonantly, without resulting in excessive melancholy. Sadness is present at all times, but it never becomes too overwhelming.

The events in "The Virgin Suicides" unfold perfectly, like an interesting package slowly being unwrapped, to reveal only theories about the suicides. This can be exasperating at times, but closure can be found in the narrator's parting words, "it didn't matter in the end how old they had been, or that they were girls, but only that we had loved them, and that they hadn't heard us... calling them out of those rooms where they want to be alone for all time, alone in suicide, which is deeper than death, and where we will never find the pieces to put them back together."

E-mail the author at elicano_ar@yahoo.com

SURPRIS'EMOTO
Surprise your loved ones this Christmas with an all-new line of smart, sleek, colorful and polyphonic cellphones from Motorola: E360, T720, V60i, and C330. There's just no smarter gift this Christmas.
C330
• Interchangeable 3 unique shapes of housing
• Mix your own ringtones with MotoMixer
• Downloadable ringtones, wallpapers and animated screensavers
• Fun Messaging
• New Fun Games
• WAP/GPRS technology
T720
• 4096 Color XL Screen Display
• Polyphonic Ringtones
• Downloadable icons, screensavers and ringtones application
• Easy Iconic Menu
• Interchangeable Color Covers
• Fun Messaging: Sounds, Animated Icons & Text
• Fun Games
• WAP/GPRS technology
E360
• Large high resolution 4096 color display
• Polyphonic Ringtones
• Downloadable ringtones, wallpapers and animated screensavers
• Easy Iconic Menu
• Interchangeable Color Covers
• Fun Messaging: Sounds, Animated Icons & Text
• Fun Games
• WAP/GPRS technology
• GSM 900/1800 Mhz dual band technology
V60i
• Dual Displays
• Interchangeable Color Covers
• Digital customization via iMelody
• Fun Messaging
• New Fun Games
• WAP/GPRS technology
MOTOROLA
intelligence everywhere

Get your MOTOROLA mobile phones and accessories at:

ComWorks, Inc.

COMMONWEALTH TELECENTER: Ground Floor, Verde Oro Building, 535 Commonwealth Ave. Quezon City, Tels.: (632) 931-5266 * (632) 951-7992 to 95 * (632) 511-4325 Fax No.: (632) 455-9206 • **MAKATI OFFICE:** 4077 Camalig St., 4078 Palanan, Makati City Tels.: (632) 834-1318 * (632) 833-0135 Fax No.: (632) 551-18-10 • **BINONDO TELECENTER:** Regina Garden II Bldg., Regina Regente St., Binondo, Manila Tel.: (632) 242-2044 • **LIPA BRANCH:** Antipolo del Norte, Lipa City (Beside BATELEC) Tels.: (043) 756-4249 * (043) 312-2728 Telefax: (043) 981-2835 • **ERICSSON SHOP-LIPA:** Fiesta World Mall, Marauoy, Lipa City Mobile: (0919) 823-5577 • **LIPA TELECENTER:** Guadalupe Plaza Bldg. C.M. Recto Ave., Lipa City Tel.: (043) 757-1787 • **CALAMBA BRANCH:** Sta. Cecilia Business Ctr. 1 Parian, Calamba, Laguna; Stall #1 Telefax: (049) 545-0570 * (049) 834-0879 * (049) 545-5214 Stall #8 Tel.: (049) 245-4373 • **SAN FERNANDO BRANCH:** Unit 3, G/F Plaza Garcia Bldg., Dolores, City of San Fernando Tel. (045) 861-0244 Telefax: (045) 961-7925 • **SAN FERNANDO TELECENTER:** GF Guiao Bldg. Mc Arthur Hiway San Agustin, San Fernando, Pampanga Mobile: (0919) 503-5071 • **TAGAYTAY TELECENTER:** Olivarez Plaza II E. Aguinaldo Hiway, Tagaytay City Mobile (0919) 597-2077 • **COMWORKS LEGASPI:** GF LCC Department Store, Rizal St., Legaspi City • **CAGAYAN DE ORO BRANCH:** Unit 220, De Leon Building, Velez St. corner Yakapin St., Cagayan de Oro City Mobile: (0918) 936-6528 * (0918) 854-2610 • **LEGASPI BRANCH:** #1 Binanuahan St., corner Rizal St. Legaspi City Telefax: (052) 820-3411 Mobile: (0917) 536-9660

CellStar

HEAD OFFICE: 30/F Penthouse, IBM Plaza, Eastwood City Cyberpark, #8 Eastwood Ave., 188 E. Rodriguez Ave., Libis, Quezon City. Tel.: (632) 421-1200 Fax: (632) 911-6934 www.cellstar.com.ph • **CEBU BRANCH:** SM City Cebu Tel.: (032) 232-4785 • **CALAMBA BRANCH:** Sta. Cecilia Business Center, Parian Tel.: (049) 834-2490 • **PAMPANGA BRANCH:** Plaza Garcia, Gemsville Subd, Dolores, San Fernando Tel.: (045) 860-0510 • **LA UNION BRANCH:** CKC Arcade, Quezon Avenue Tel.: (072) 242-1227 • **DAVAO BRANCH:** Plaza De Luisa Bldg. R. Magsaysay Tel.: (082) 224-5476

ALSO AVAILABLE AT: MEMOXPRESS-ALABANG Space no. L3 - 3058 3rd Level Filinvest, Corporate City Alabang, Muntinlupa City. Tel.: (632) 850-3724 * **MEMOXPRESS**-LAGUNA Pavillion Mall (Ayala Land Inc.) Space no. 118 Bldg. A Km 35 San Antonio Binan, Laguna Tel.: (049) 411-7102 * **MEMOXPRESS**SM-CITY-FAIRVIEW Space no. 210 2nd level Quirino Highway, Fairview, Q.C. Tel.: (632) 419-8254 * **MEMOXPRESS**-SM NORTH EDSA Space no. 148 Car Park Plaza, Edsa, Quezon City Tel.: (632) 453-2415 * **MEMOXPRESS**- RIZAL Sta. Lucia East Grandmall 2nd level Phase 2 Bridgeway Marcos Highway cor. F. Felix Ave., Cainta, Rizal Tel.: (632) 681-7487 • **TEKPONE, DAVAO BRANCHES:** Plaza de Luisa Bldg. R. Magsaysay Ave., Uyanguren, Davao City * 4th level JS Gaciano Mall, Ilustre St., Davao City * Ground Flr. Victoria Plaza Mall, JP Laurel Ave., Bajada, Davao City • **JUNREX, CEBU BRANCH:** SM City, Cebu • **PLAY TELECOM, CEBU BRANCH:** SM City, Iloilo • **TOUCHTEL**-Glorietta • **SELECTRONICS**-Alabang Town Center • **WIRELESS CONNECTIONS**-SM Megamall

Hotline: (02) 421-1200

For other inquiries, e-mail or call: cellphones.ph@mot.com (02) 810-0762 ext. 700

Now available!
IMMUVIT™
Vitamins+Minerals+Ginseng Extract+CoQ10
THE IMMUNE SYSTEM BOOSTER
Pascual Laboratories, Inc.

2bU! To be young • To be you!

DUNKIN' DONUTS
Free CD
Featuring the Gibbs Family
when you buy a dozen Dunkin' Donuts

Who rocked your world

"HE was joking, honest!" Diether Ocampo and Jaedee

IT pays to have the screen name "Nine Inch Neil." Flanked by Michelle Bayle and Regine Tolentino.

By Maui V. Reyes
2bU! Correspondent

"IT'S all about headaches and people jumping up and down," Joey Pepe Smith said. "That's what I love about the NU Rock Awards."

Held at the World Trade Center on Roxas Boulevard on Nov. 20, the annual NU Rock Awards dished out more than it usually does every year. Of course, there were still your usual mini-riot (or a huge mass of people running after you, depending on whom you ask), the stellar lineup of performances, the huge bouncers who didn't falter fans' desires to climb up on that 6-ft stage, and the babe-licious celebrities who five out those coveted glass-on-a-rock awards that they could use to pad their band bios.

Although the formula has always worked, NU has found a way to kill that dead air in between opening the gates and the long wait for the start of the show—an acoustic performance to ease impatient rockers and a grace time for the press. The Dawn, Kapatid, and The Pin-Up Girls made up this year's welcoming committee.

Wally Gonzales opened this year's awards show with a guitar rendition of the National Anthem before getting inducted into the Hall of Fame later that evening, followed by Rivermaya's performance of "Umaaraw, Umuulan." Monsterbot strutted their stuff with their single "Bury the Oreo" before Moonstar88 mellowed down the crowd.

"Weird," Jazz Nicolas said of his second Best New Artist win. It was his second time onstage for the band Boldstar, while last year, his other band itchyworms!, bagged the same award.

"I'm starting a band with Jazz now," Twisted Halo's Jason Caballa laughed.

Although Rivermaya and Slapshock were running head to head with the number of nominations, Slapshock bagged only the Band of the Year (for the second time in a row), while the boys of 'Maya went home empty-handed.

Raimund Marasigan got props for his work on Monsterbot's "Destroy, Destroy" debut and Chicosci's sophomore effort, "Method of Breathing" as Producer of the Year, while Chicosci's single, "Paris," after dominating the NU 107 Midnight Countdown charts for months, earned them the Song of the Year award. Greyhoundz bassist Nino Avenido picked up his very well-deserved Bassist of the Year award. "*Masaya... Astig*! I didn't think I would win," Nino shared. "I mean, I didn't expect, but I was hoping." Bandmate Reg Rubio lamented it was "about time."

The crowd favorites, however, were Cheese. The band brought home three awards that night, including Listener's Choice and Album of the Year. Ian Tayao also won Vocalist of the Year, to which he simply thanked "NU for the recognition."

Of course, with all these wins and numerous cries of "Congratulations!" throughout the night, looking at the list of this year's nominees was like déjà vu. Every category was like the last, with, of course, the country's Top 4 rap core groups, with Rivermaya heading the pack.

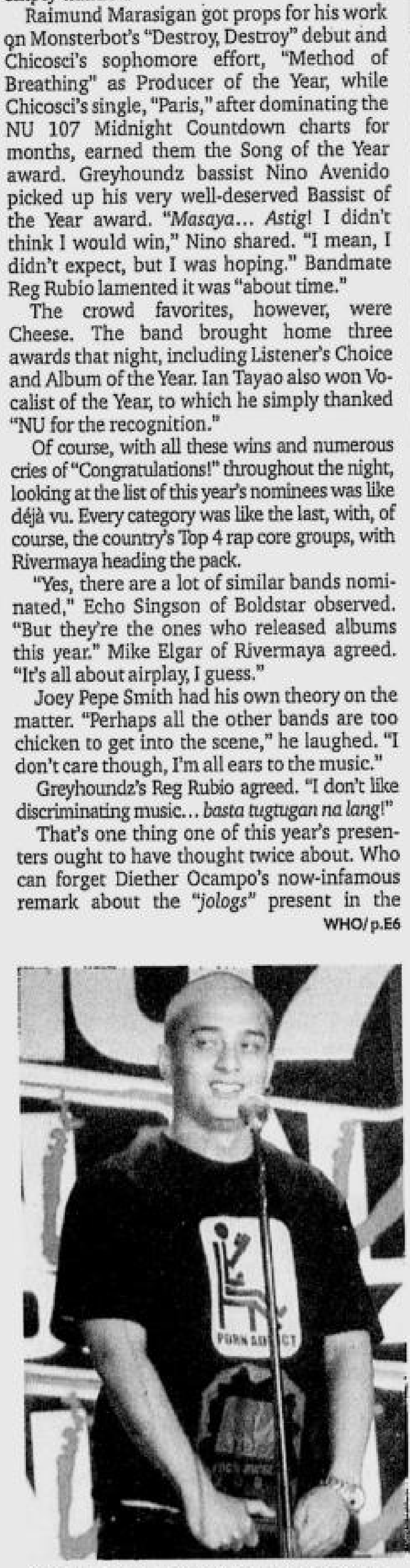
"Yes, there are a lot of similar bands nominated," Echo Singson of Boldstar observed. "But they're the ones who released albums this year." Mike Elgar of Rivermaya agreed. "It's all about airplay, I guess."

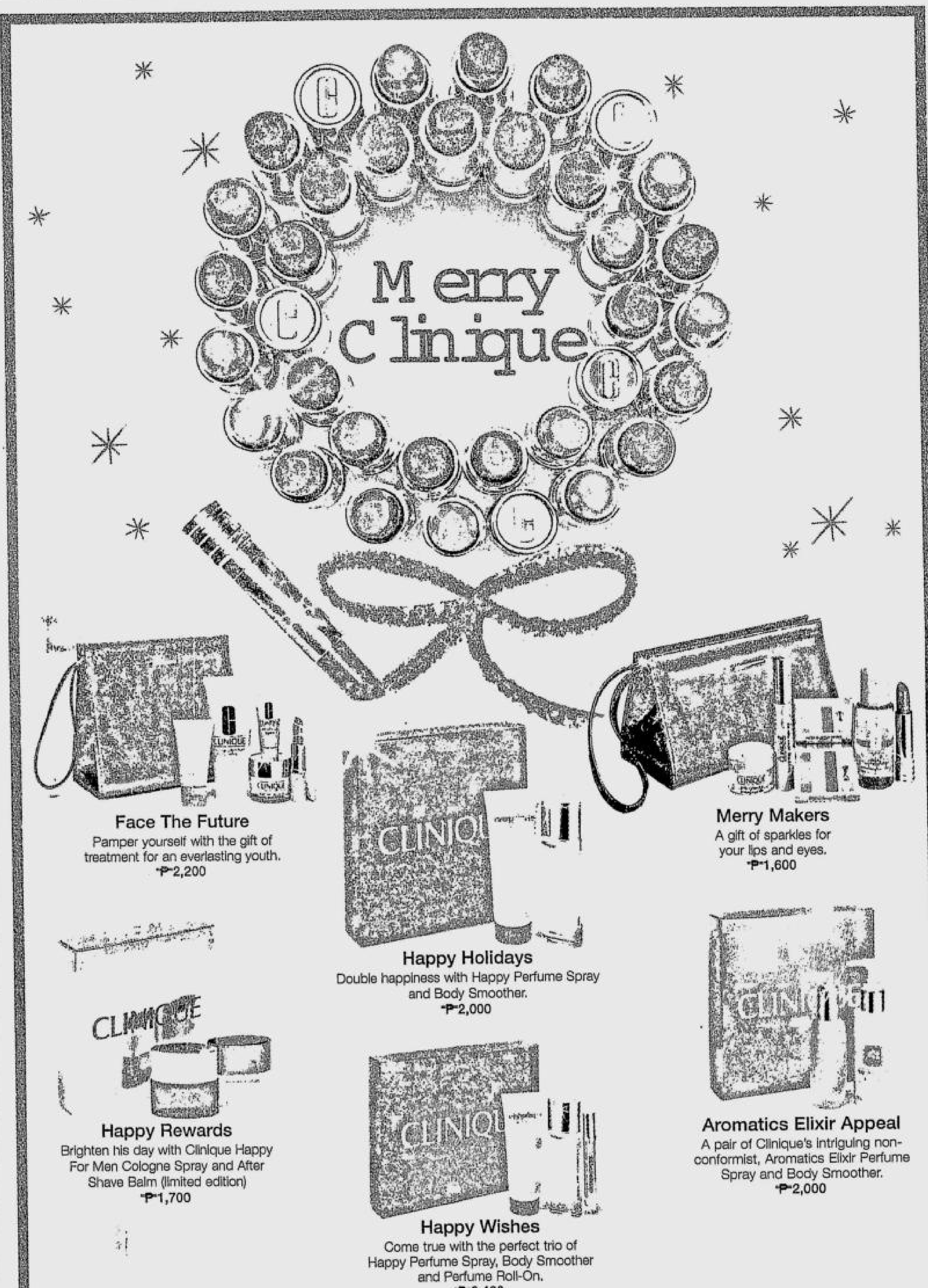
Joey Pepe Smith had his own theory on the matter. "Perhaps all the other bands are too chicken to get into the scene," he laughed. "I don't care though, I'm all ears to the music."

Greyhoundz's Reg Rubio agreed. "I don't like discriminating music... *basta tugtugan na lang*!"

That's one thing one of this year's presenters ought to have thought twice about. Who can forget Diether Ocampo's now-infamous remark about the "*jologs*" present in the

WHO/ p.E6


RYAN Agoncillo rethinks why he agreed to this in the first place.



Face The Future
Pamper yourself with the gift of treatment for an everlasting youth.
₱2,200

Merry Makers
A gift of sparkles for your lips and eyes.
₱1,600

Happy Holidays
Double happiness with Happy Perfume Spray and Body Smoother.
₱2,000

Happy Rewards
Brighten his day with Clinique Happy For Men Cologne Spray and After Shave Balm (limited edition)
₱1,700

Aromatics Elixir Appeal
A pair of Clinique's intriguing non-conformist, Aromatics Elixir Perfume Spray and Body Smoother.
₱2,000

Happy Wishes
Come true with the perfect trio of Happy Perfume Spray, Body Smoother and Perfume Roll-On.
₱2,400

Make your own Christmas set/s worth ₱2,000 or more in a single receipt*, and receive a Silver Handbag from us.
*Not valid with value sets and accessories. One to a customer, please.

From November 20 – 30, 2002.

Exclusively at:

Rustan's
MAKATI • SHANGRI-LA PLAZA • ALABANG • CEBU
Makati, Tel. No. 894 3521
Shangri-La Plaza, Tel. No. 633 4636 local 112
Alabang, Tel. No. 850 5561 local 118
Cebu, Tel. No. 231 5641

Beauty bar
Level 1, Glorietta 2, Ayala Center, Makati
Tel. No. 892 3166 & 892 3153

Per DTI Permit No. 4514 Series of 2002

ReadShow goes to Alabang

By Kelly Ortiz
2bU! Correspondent

READERSHIP has undoubtedly declined in the past few years.

Young people spend more time playing computer games, using mobile phones and watching cheap VCDs. They miss relevant knowledge that books and newspapers provide. How can the young be encouraged to read?

Visine has launched an aggressive campaign called Read to Lead to encourage youngsters to pick up a good book and gain knowledge by reading. A component of Read to Lead is the monthly ReadShow, which travels around malls in the metropolis.

Now on its third leg, the show was held recently at the Alabang Town Center, with an audience composed of students from the Muntinlupa Science High School, Pedro Diaz High School, as well as the Alabang Town Center shoppers. Special guests who shared their love for reading included Sen. Manny Villar, basketball star Vince Hizon and NU 107 rock video of the year winner, The Pin-Up Girls.

Villar, who was interviewed by hosts Bam Aquino and Lexi Schulze, related how, as a poor young boy, he used to borrow books because he couldn't afford them. Through books, he was able to rise from poverty and become a successful businessman.

Hizon, who celebrated his birthday at the ReadShow, gave helpful hints on how to win the game of life. He confessed that he was a slow reader as a kid, but got the reading bug from an aunt. He credited reading for his basketball skills because books developed the quality of mind that enabled him to analyze tactics, concentrate and focus on winning the game.

He set up the Vince Hizon Foundation, which put up libraries and installed computer facilities in public schools nationwide.

The Pin-Up Girls frontman and NU 107 DJ Mondo Castro and bassist Jeng Tan revealed they were hardcore bibliophiles, drawing inspiration from the works of Pablo Neruda, Ayn Rand and even Stephen King in writing their songs. Astro said, "If your brain doesn't get any exercise, it gets smaller." The group is the first Filipino band to sign up with an American record label. They concluded the ReadShow with a live performance.

During the show, Visine, together with The Eye Health and Safety Foundation, provided free visual skill testing to the public.

Endorsed by the Reading Association of the Philippines, Visine's Read to Lead campaign aims to create and increase awareness of the benefits of reading. Partners include National Book Store and Powerbooks. It is also sponsored by Scholastic, Simon & Schuster, Harper Collins and Random House.

In October, the INQUIRER and National Book Store launched the Look Who's Reading Photo Contest in support of Visine's Read to Lead Campaign. The contest aimed to feature people reading newspapers, books or magazines in ways that will encourage others to go pick up a book.

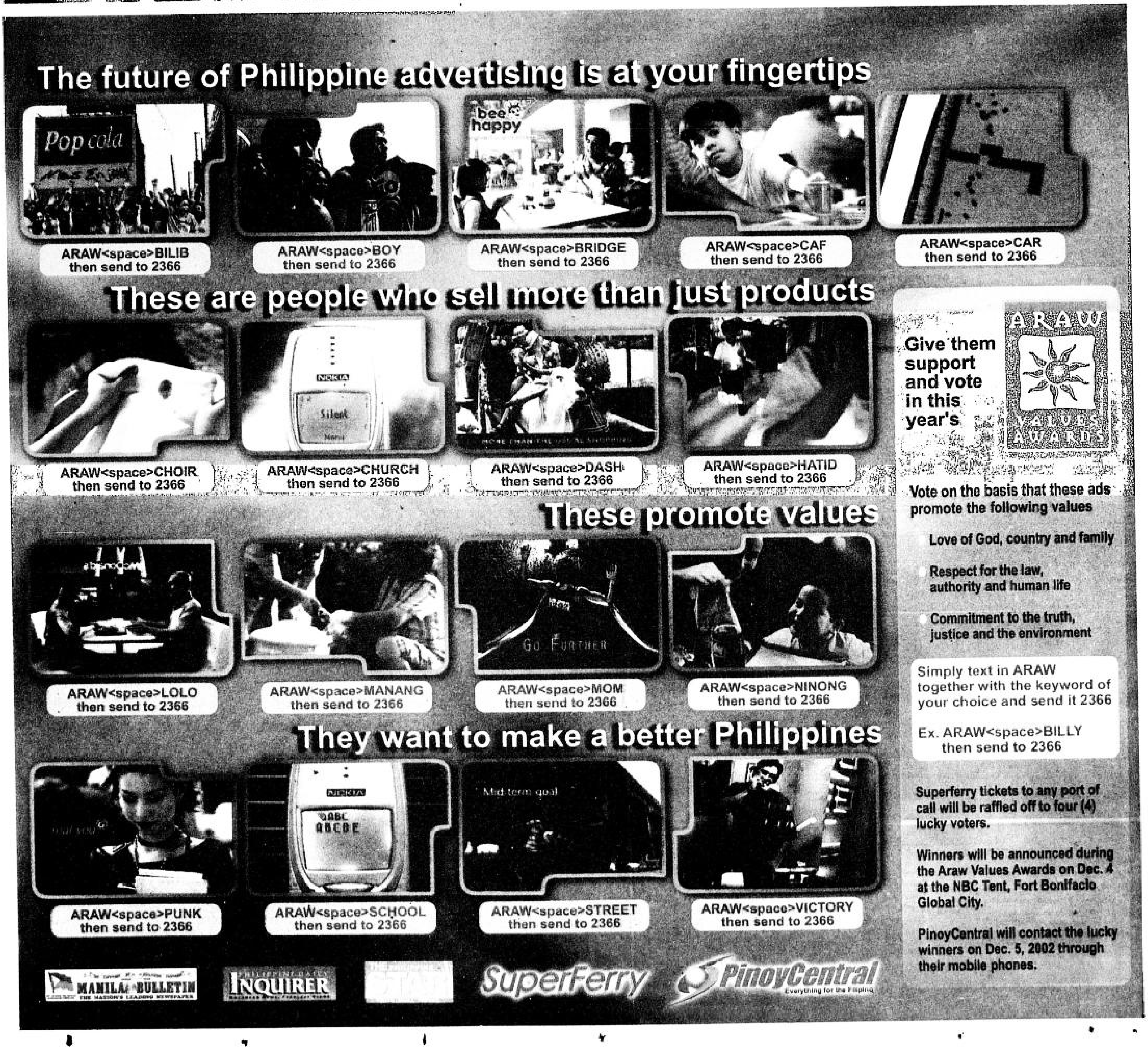
The show highlights the relevance of books even in cyber age

BIRTHDAY boy Vince Hizon says reading helped him become one of the best basketball players around.

STUDENTS of Muntinlupa Science High School find something amusing during the contest. Students from different schools try to outdo each other in answering questions.

BAM Aquino and Lexi Schulze ask a student about his favorite book and why he loves reading so much.

SEN. Manny Villar says he used to borrow books because he couldn't afford to buy them.



The future of Philippine advertising is at your fingertips

ARAW<space>BILIB then send to 2366
ARAW<space>BOY then send to 2366
ARAW<space>BRIDGE then send to 2366
ARAW<space>CAF then send to 2366
ARAW<space>CAR then send to 2366

These are people who sell more than just products

ARAW<space>CHOIR then send to 2366
ARAW<space>CHURCH then send to 2366
ARAW<space>DASH then send to 2366
ARAW<space>HATID then send to 2366

These promote values

ARAW<space>LOLO then send to 2366
ARAW<space>MANANG then send to 2366
ARAW<space>MOM then send to 2366
ARAW<space>NINONG then send to 2366

They want to make a better Philippines

ARAW<space>PUNK then send to 2366
ARAW<space>SCHOOL then send to 2366
ARAW<space>STREET then send to 2366
ARAW<space>VICTORY then send to 2366

Give them support and vote in this year's ARAW VALUES AWARDS

Vote on the basis that these ads promote the following values

- Love of God, country and family
- Respect for the law, authority and human life
- Commitment to the truth, justice and the environment

Simply text in ARAW together with the keyword of your choice and send it 2366

Ex. ARAW<space>BILLY then send to 2366

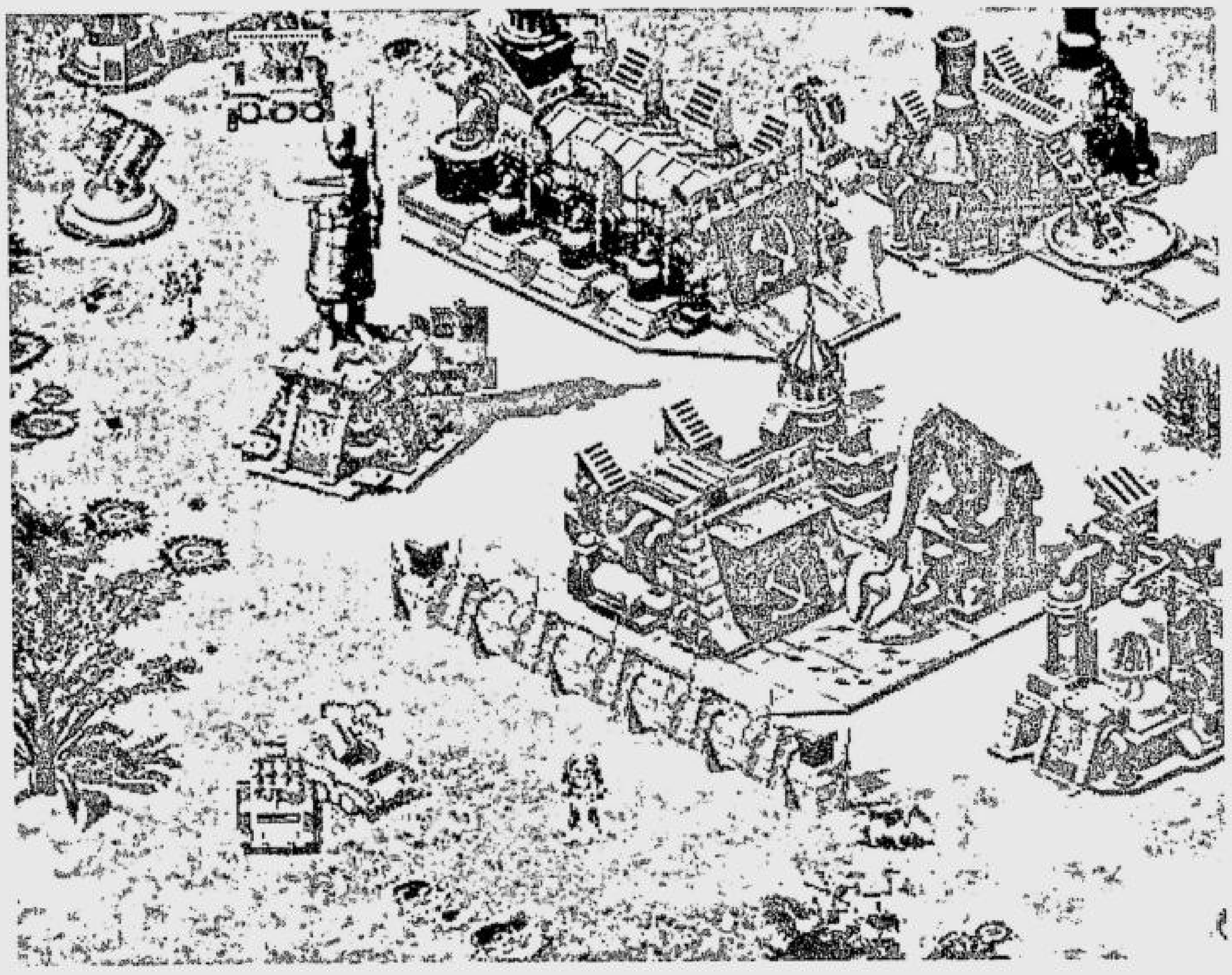
Superferry tickets to any port of call will be raffled off to four (4) lucky voters.

Winners will be announced during the Araw Values Awards on Dec. 4 at the NBC Tent, Fort Bonifacio Global City.

PinoyCentral will contact the lucky winners on Dec. 5, 2002 through their mobile phones.

MANILA BULLETIN THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER
INQUIRER
SuperFerry
PinoyCentral Everything for the Filipino

All is fair in love and network game war



She said

By Candy Villanueva
2bU! Correspondent

Men are from Mars, women are from Venus—even in Red Alert

WHAT is your idea of a fun and romantic date? Rollerblading and holding hands in the park? Watching a meteor shower? Sharing a romantic double choco latté?

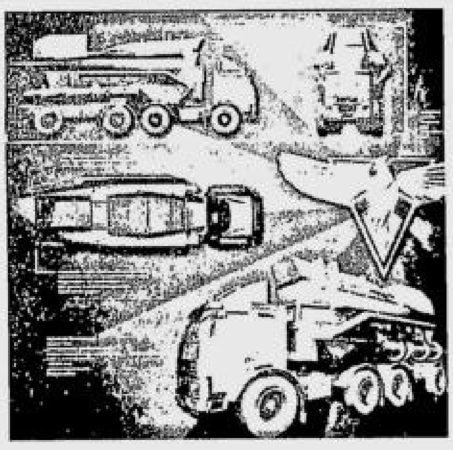
Last week, I spent a most romantic evening with my date: I tried to beat his battle tanks and ruthless conscripts. Playing Red Alert against my boyfriend online—now that's romantic!

It's really true that "Men are from Mars and Women are from Venus." Even in our strategies playing the Real Time Strategy (RTS) game of Red Alert, that was clearly evident.

In his pursuit to assert his masculinity, he opted to win the game by bringing on a barrage of merciless infantry to wipe out my base. I, on the other hand, chose tact and subtlety, using my spies to disable his team's defenses, which allowed my engineers to capture the enemy's base. I thus shed as little bloodshed as possible.

While it gave me great pleasure to command and conquer another team, I hated the idea of losing so much infantry and tanks. Choosing the Allied team, I tried to avoid facing the enemy head on, knowing that success might mean a lot of kills. For me, it was a sorry waste of resources my harvesters had so painstakingly accumulated. Instead, I opted for the quiet kill.

My strategy started with defense, building as much infantry as possible to protect my base from attacks while I carefully plotted my takeover. As soon as I knew my base was secure, I sent out my cunningly trained spy to temporarily disable the opponent's power source. Time was of the essence as I was given roughly a minute before power came back. Within that glorious defenseless minute, I would send out a squad of Rocketeers, amazing flying soldiers, to destroy all the adversary's power sources one by one.



The power source was vital for every base. Once the juice had been cut off, all activities in the camp slowed down. Defenses were immobilized, which allowed my Rocketeers to attack unharmed. They attacked from the air, which made the opponent's ground defenses totally useless. I usually sat back and watched with pleasure as my Rocketeers fired away while steadily increasing their ranks unscathed.

Of course, there were thė occasional Flak Troopers, Flack Tracks and IFVs, units that could attack air assailants. But their paltry number of air defense was usually no match for my countless Rocketeers. By the time the enemy realized they needed more air defenses, it was too late.

When all defenses had been completely obliterated, I sent my engineers to capture the enemy's buildings one by one. Thus, my power and capabilities increased as I took in new technologies.

I loved the spies. Their roles were pivotal to my tactic. It was funny, though, how they operated by taking on the form of any of the enemies and deftly but very slowly infiltrated enemy territory. They could even take on the form of an attack dog, a feat impossible in real life. The spies definitely bring in a whole new meaning to the word disguise.

Another favorite strategy of mine was to send out my spies to steal other technologies, which allowed me to train troops with uncanny but useful powers. My favorite was the Yuri Prime, a threatening soldier who could control the minds of enemies. Like an ethereal being, the Yuri Prime floated toward the enemy camp at my command, stayed from a safe distance and controlled the mind of one of the enemy's units to create havoc within his base.

The result—they all ended up killing each other. With the coast clear, my troops took over. The entire defense team of the opponent was wiped out due to one lone soldier, the Yuri Prime. Victory without firing a single shot. The enemy didn't even know what hit them. Now that was class!

So who says RTS and other similar games are only for bloodthirsty, gore-loving male war-freaks? We peace-loving gals have a place in the world of combat and strategy games. Even through bits and bytes, I have proven that, as in real life, most conflicts and obstacles can be overcome through tact and subtlety. Not everything can only be settled with the fist.

I'm not going to tell you who won. Nevertheless, it was fun. It was only a pity that with our hands busy with the controls, we couldn't hold hands while playing.

He said

By Gary Mercado
2bU! Correspondent

THERE'S something to be said about being in a relationship with a girl who just happens to love to play video games. I can imagine many guys I know shaking their heads in disbelief at my luck. It's not that I don't think there are a lot of girls out there who enjoy playing games—but the fact that she happens to be an interesting, beautiful woman who shares a lot of my other interests in things like music, movies, writing and pigging out—that's just plain Nirvana for me.

If you're a guy and you're still not convinced that's of any value, just imagine this scenario—you're in an Internet café while your girlfriend's gone shopping at the mall—you're crouched, concentrating intensely at your monitor, guiding your troops slowly but surely toward the enemy you've been waiting for hours to kill.

Suddenly, your cell phone rings like crazy—it's her, she's weaving her way through the *tiangge* and is *sooo* excited and proud of her latest find—the perfect blouse! She dares you to guess at how cheap it is! You stammer a bit, trying hard not to lose concentration, but at the same time, knowing you have to pay attention to what she's saying. But it's too late—that momentary lapse makes her realize that your full attention is (gasp!) not on her and she demands to know what you're doing. In a final, desperate attempt to redeem yourself, you wave wildly at your opponents across the room to ask for a time-out—while muttering an amount—any amount—to try and convince her that you were listening. "P50, honey?," you weakly ask.

The damage is done though—she sees through your feeble attempts at recovery and demands that you fetch her immediately, even if she hasn't bought anything other than the blouse yet. All the while she uses that cold, heart-stopping voice of finality—she is not amused.

A little dramatic you say? I tell you what—if I had a peso for every guy who could relate to that, I'd be able to book a shopping trip for both my girl and I to Hong Kong by now.

In any case, my friends, the irony here is undeniable. The heavens have found it fit for me, a guy who likes games so much that I have found a job writing game reviews, to have a girlfriend that will not get angry if she finds me playing video games. I have yet to let the magic of this sink in. Yes, she loves to shop just as much (if not more) than most girls. Yes, she'd also get pissed if I concentrated on anything else other than her. Yes, she's also capable of that bone-chilling, mind-bending voice that makes you come hither, post-haste—but she will not do that if she learns I have been playing video games. I have a girlfriend who can relate to the awful feeling of leaving a hard-fought game right in the middle. I am thankful to the video-game gods beyond belief.

In any case, I digress. The topic is about Red Alert techniques and the difference in our styles. I will agree with her when she says that our games are different, and that is the only thing I agree on.

She likes to move subtly a unit at a time while I move whole troops. She likes to build defenses while I believe a strong defense is a good offense. She uses several different characters while I concentrate on only one or two, making a special one only when I really have to. And most amazingly to me, she cares for her troops and tries to find ways to win with as few casualties as possible— I, on the other hand, firmly believe that in war, the end justifies the means.

In other words, our techniques are as dissimilar as night and day. That is the beauty of a Real Time Strategy game such as Red Alert, Red Alert II and it's last installment, Yuri's Revenge. Due to having many different characters and many different scenarios, there are so many different ways of carrying out the virtual "war" you're playing.

Using your planes, tanks, ships, soldiers and any number of standard and even strange characters (there's even a UFO and such things as mind-controlled squid), you can take whatever you have now and just surprise-attack your enemy. Or you can take your time and build your defenses, slowly waiting for your enemy to attack and answering back immediately. You can even get crafty and use spies and other devious characters to take charge of enemy buildings to steal their resources.

But I guess the most obvious reason I like this game is not because of any high-tech reason, exciting graphics or spectacular technical achievements. My girlfriend and I have found something to share. It's important that we find stuff to do together—and playing Red Alert while trying out other games as well is something sustainable that we'll be doing for a long time. Not only do I recommend Red Alert, I also recommend you learn to play it along with someone close to you.

E-mail the authors at gary@exchange.ph and anamsgv@yahoo.com

Make the world lie at your feet

Vanity Fair

Lora Gabol

I'VE had one too many salon traumas in this lifetime. The many horrible haircuts will always remain in my memory. And then there was the pedicure from hell—a torturous salon moment I would remember until I turn 90 and senile.

The best initiation to *kikay*-hood, as far as my mom is concerned, is having a manicure ànd a pedicure. On the day of my first-ever prom, I was subjected to such an initiation. If I had known better, a session with some frat boys and a wooden paddle would've been more appealing, not to mention less painful.

The pedicure lady seemed to have something against toes. Her royal wretchedness poked at my poor virgin cuticles as if they were responsible for her life's frustrations.

Needless to say, I was crying after one foot was done, but I was too nice for my toes' own good. I wanted to kick her in the face, but I shut up and chanted, over and over, "I will never have a pedicure again. I will never have a pedicure again…"

Though I never renewed ties with the wicked pedicurist, I kept the faith in pampering my feet. Thank God for spa pedicures. Foot salons are popping up like mushrooms everywhere. Treat your callused soles to one of the many foot treatments these special salons offer, or have your own at home. Throw a scarf over that lamp, light a couple of aromatherapy candles or incense sticks, play some soothing music, grab your favorite foot loot and relax your feet into Nirvana.

Cleaning

Soak 'em. Start with clean feet. Fill a basin or a bowl with warm water, throw in a handful of foot crystals (The Body Shop carries a pretty good line), and allow your tootsies to swim in bliss for 15 minutes (or longer).

For the ultimate, all-natural at-home spa experience, throw in slices of citrus fruits like lemons or good ol' *calamansi*, some rose petals and a few drops of aromatherapy oil. This will make your toes tingle with delight.

Scrub 'em. That soothing soak should've softened the toughest skin on your tootsies by now. Begin your attack by using a gentle moisturizing foot scrub to rub away the evidence of walking longer distances than the length of Edsa. Try The Body Shop's Lemongrass Deodorizing Foot Polish or Freeman Barefoot Pumice and Plum Foot Scrub to polish your feet into baby-soft perfection.

Gently massage the soles and arches of your feet while scrubbing away to relieve tension and improve blood circulation.

Buff 'em. Removing those stubborn calluses may prove to be a tougher battle, so a tougher arsenal of products (and scrubbing) is required.

Use The Body Shop's No More Rough Stuff Pumice to take care of those bunions. Concentrate on the thicker parts of your feet like your soles and heels and patiently rub away. Remember that it doesn't take one foot treatment to bring back the feet you were born with, so stop when your skin turns just a hint of pink. Don't wait until your tootsies turn raw or you'd have to include yourself in the injured list from overzealous foot scrubbing.

Moisturize 'em. After rinsing your feet with warm water, pat them dry with a towel. Apply a generous amount of foot balm or lotion to preserve the smooth perfection you've just worked an hour for. I like Bloom's Feet Treat, a cooling, moisture-infused gel, and Freeman Barefoot Peppermint and Poppies Foot and Leg Lotion for a heavenly finish.

After the spa experience, go the extra mile to beautify your feet even more. Get strappy-sandal-worthy toes with an at-home pedicure without the fuss (and the ouch!).

Clipping

Clip 'em. If your toenails are long enough for ecosystems to live under them, grab a toenail clipper (not those miniscule thingies you use on your dainty fingernails) and trim your toenails straight across. Never dig on the corners, unless you want to live with ingrown nails by the time you're 30. If the square look seems too, well, square, for you, get a nail file and slightly shape the corners for girlier nails.

Push 'em. Push, not cut. I'm talking about our dear cuticles here, the ones that sadistic pedicurist picked on. Unlike your appendix and your tonsils, your cuticles are there for a reason: to protect your precious nail bed from infections and nasty germs. Throw away those steel pushers that do more harm than good and be a little kinder to these hard-working strips of skin by using a wooden orange stick to gently push them back.

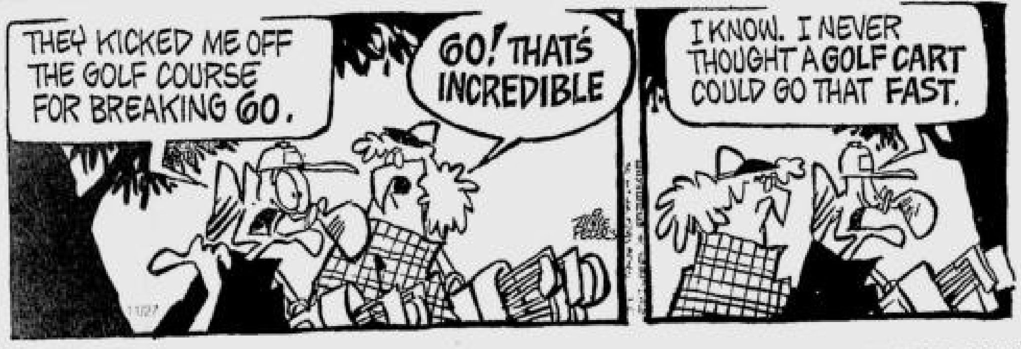
Buff 'em. For naturally shiny toenails, use a buffer instead of laying on the polish. These tri-color buffers are available at The Body Shop and almost every other Health and Beauty store known to man. First, use the dark gray surface to gently remove stains on nails. Next, rub on the lighter gray surface to polish. Lastly, use the back surface to buff your toenails into a blinding sheen. Buffing nails is also great before putting on polish, as it helps polish stick better.

Paint 'em. After buffing, this step may seem optional. But if you really have to polish your toes, I'd say go for the natural look. Use colorless polish or paint on pinky or peachy neutrals. Don't forget the basecoat, unless you really think a tinge of yellow looks good on your toes. The best polish brands in my book? Esssie at the Nail Spa and Sally Hansen. L'Oreal Jet Set has trendy colors that dry in 60 seconds flat—great for women on the go.

Unofficial statistics say that more than 80 percent of the male population have a foot fetish. Hmmm… so is foot pampering a *kikay* necessity? I think so.

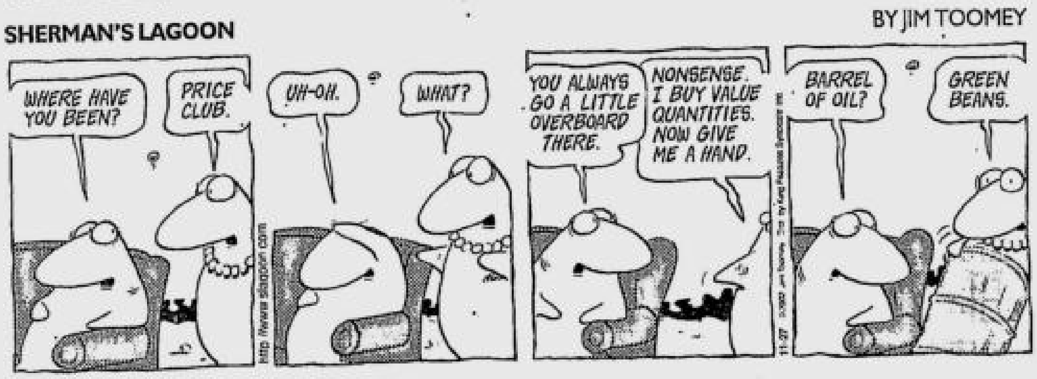
MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


THEY KICKED ME OFF THE GOLF COURSE FOR BREAKING 60.
60! THAT'S INCREDIBLE
I KNOW. I NEVER THOUGHT A GOLF CART COULD GO THAT FAST.
11/27

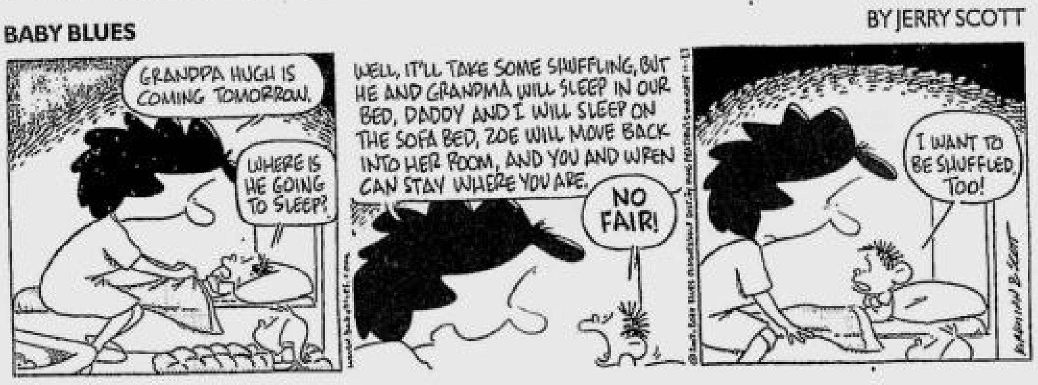
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?
PRICE CLUB.
UH-OH.
WHAT?
YOU ALWAYS GO A LITTLE OVERBOARD THERE.
NONSENSE. I BUY VALUE QUANTITIES. NOW GIVE ME A HAND.
BARREL OF OIL?
GREEN BEANS.
http://www.slagoon.com
11-27

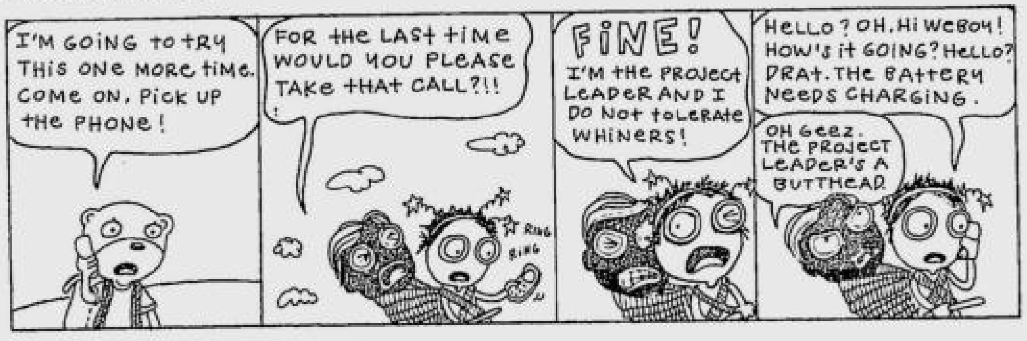
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


GRANDPA HUGH IS COMING TOMORROW.
WHERE IS HE GOING TO SLEEP?
WELL, IT'LL TAKE SOME SHUFFLING, BUT HE AND GRANDMA WILL SLEEP IN OUR BED, DADDY AND I WILL SLEEP ON THE SOFA BED, ZOE WILL MOVE BACK INTO HER ROOM, AND YOU AND WREN CAN STAY WHERE YOU ARE.
NO FAIR!
I WANT TO BE SHUFFLED, TOO!

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


I'M GOING to try THIS ONE MORE time. COME ON, PICK UP the PHONE!
FOR the LAST time WOULD YOU PLEASE TAKE that CALL?!!
RING RING
FINE!
I'M the PROJECT LEADER AND I DO NOT tOLERATE WHINERS!
HELLO? OH, Hi WEBOY! HOW'S it GOING? HELLO? DRAT. The BATTERY NEEDS CHARGING.
OH GEEZ. The PROJECT LEADER'S A BUTTHEAD.

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Robin Givens, Bruce Lee, Caroline Kennedy, Jaleel White

Happy Birthday: Be wise in your choices this year. If you pick the right path you can make your dreams come true. Making plans and preparation are your strong points. Your strength of character will lead you in the direction you desire. Your numbers are 7, 12, 29, 31, 36, 44

ARIES (March 21-April 19): This is a good time for relating to potential partners, whether it be for business, romance or pleasure. Be careful not to overspend on entertainment.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Difficulties with family finances or those you live with will be unnerving. Figure out a way to deal with monetary uncertainty. Your energy will be low, so get enough rest.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Your conscious and subconscious may be at odds with one another. Do some soul searching and you'll discover which path you should follow. Solitude will be beneficial.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Avoid money ventures of any kind today. A friend or youngster in your life may take drastic measures in order to get your attention. Try to understand what's behind it.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Disruptions beyond your control may ruin your regular routine. Be prepared to accept things as they unfold. Physical fitness programs will ease your tension.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You may not be able to handle the innuendos that a friend or relative is making. Ignore what he or she is saying and focus your attention elsewhere. You can accomplish great things.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Empty promises are evident. Don't quit your present job unless you have another one to go to. Contracts will not be as lucrative as they appear. Read the fine print.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Stay out of the limelight. Someone may be trying to make you look bad. You need to regroup and consider who your friends are. Ferret out the information you need.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't worry too much about a friend or relative who insists on meddling in your affairs. Just tell this person to mind his own business. You must respect yourself and your goals and not allow anyone to interfere.

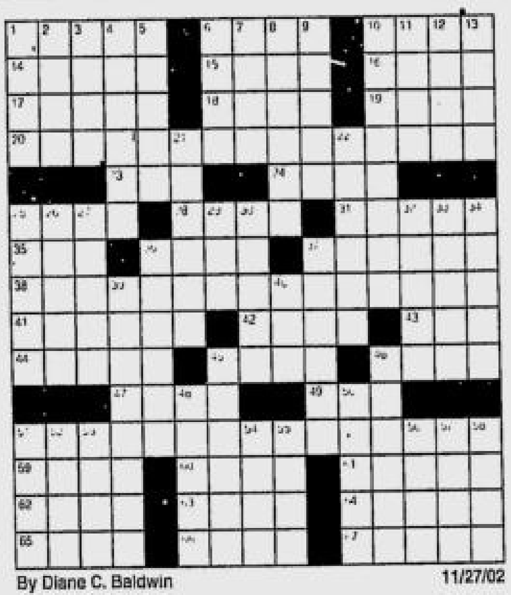
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Your need to make changes may appear to be out of character to your loved ones. Follow your heart. If you make yourself and your actions transparent, those around you will be able to understand you much better.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): A child or lover may demand special attention. Don't give in too readily if you have made a prior commitment. You must respect your needs as well. Postpone purchasing luxury items at this time.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Be careful regarding health problems. Make an appointment with your doctor to check things out. Rest and relaxation will be in your best interest. If you can take a vacation, do so.

Birthday Baby: You will be a perfectionist throughout life. You will have a need to follow your own path regardless of what anyone else wants you to do. You know what you want and will stop nothing short of getting it.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Diane C. Baldwin
Columbia, MD

11/27/02

ACROSS
1 Mess creators
6 Good buddy
10 Advantage
14 Divided Asian peninsula
15 Top-notch
16 "Heart and __"
17 Letter-shaped support
18 Dice toss
19 Something shared
20 Amazingly promising
23 Experimental room
24 Instance
25 Zoom
28 Went under
31 Gibber
35 Pother
36 Written reminder
37 Gone aloft
38 Same old story
41 Worship local points
42 Pants part
43 Rhea's cousin
44 Single step
45 Ocean ice
46 Scottish Gaelic
47 Easy gait
49 McKellen or Fleming
51 Doomed from the start
59 Computer graphic
60 Collar stiffener
61 Hippo's haunt
62 Alaskan transport
63 Flat fish
64 Large ape, briefly
65 Lip
66 Flock females
67 Transmits

DOWN
1 Short theatrical offering
2 Gray wolf
3 Sandwich cookie
4 Hound dog
5 Polynesian island group
6 Joker or jokester
7 Loud, raucous cry
8 Open up
9 Very thinly sliced crisp toast
10 Confidential
11 Gloomy
12 Spiritual teacher
13 Option word
21 Fixate on
22 __ de corps
25 Indian royalty
26 Grown-up
27 __ del Sol
29 Electric meas.
30 Scandinavian
32 Star-like blossom
33 Abounds
34 Embody with
36 Bone center
37 Leisurely, musically
39 Remnants
40 End of command?
45 Grant
46 Complete
48 No longer current
50 Bushy hairdos
51 Serpent's warning
52 Bruins of coll. sports
53 Exits
54 Recital of events
55 Gives the once-over
56 Reitman or Rodriguez
57 Heal
58 Work units

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

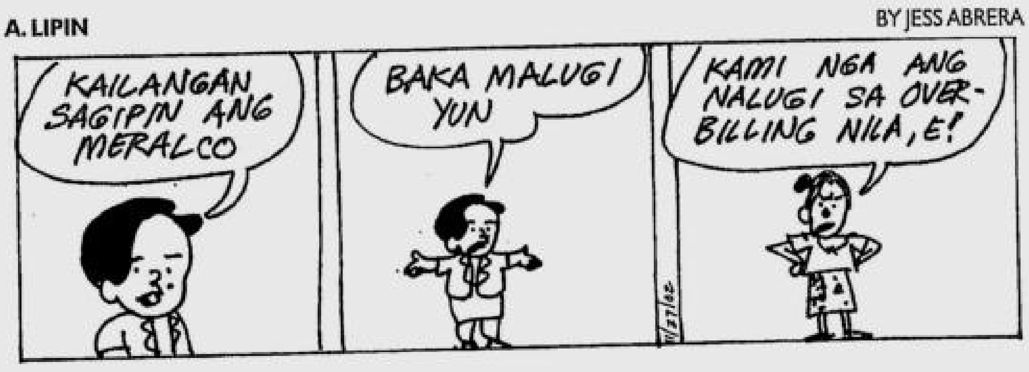
L	I	E	U		L	A	D	D		A	L	I	A	S
A	C	T	S		O	D	I	E		L	I	N	D	A
P	E	T	E	R	P	A	N	V	I	L	L	A	I	N
S	T	A	L	E		G	E	O	D	E		N	O	D
			E	B	B	E	D		E	G	R	E	S	S
C	A	E	S	A	R			A	A	R	E			
O	D	D	S	G	I	V	E	N		O	G	L	E	S
W	I	G			M	I	L	N	E			O	R	E
S	T	E	A	L		B	Y	A	B	O	O	K	I	E
			B	A	B	E			R	U	B	I	E	S
B	A	K	E	R	Y		S	C	O	T	T			
A	D	O		C	O	C	O	A		D	R	A	M	A
C	U	R	V	E	B	A	L	L	C	O	U	S	I	N
K	L	E	I	N		L	A	V	A		D	A	R	T
S	T	A	C	Y		F	R	E	T		E	P	E	E

(C)2002 Tribune Media Services, Inc
All rights reserved

11/27/02

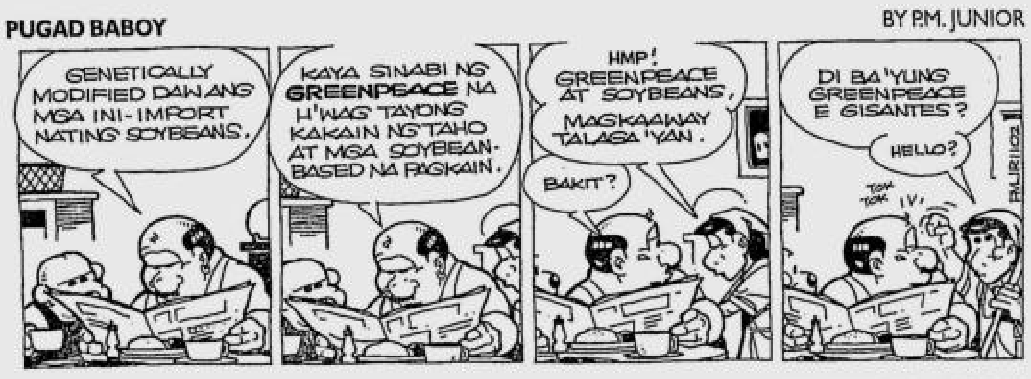
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


KAILANGAN SAGIPIN ANG MERALCO
BAKA MALUGI YUN
KAMI NGA ANG NALUGI SA OVER-BILLING NILA, E!
11/27/02

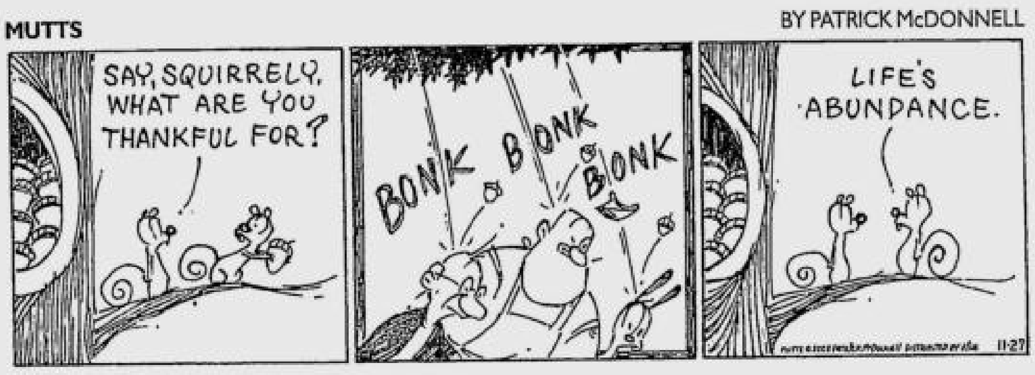
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


GENETICALLY MODIFIED DAW ANG MGA INI-IMPORT NATING SOYBEANS.
KAYA SINABI NG GREENPEACE NA H'WAG TAYONG KAKAIN NG TAHO AT MGA SOYBEAN-BASED NA PAGKAIN.
HMP! GREENPEACE AT SOYBEANS, MAGKAAWAY TALAGA 'YAN.
BAKIT?
DI BA 'YUNG GREENPEACE E GISANTES?
HELLO?
TOK TOK
PMJR11/02

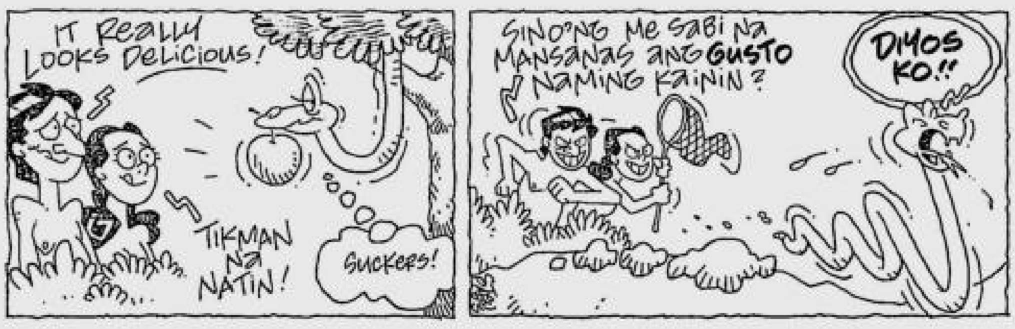
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


SAY, SQUIRRELY. WHAT ARE YOU THANKFUL FOR?
BONK
BONK
BONK
LIFE'S ABUNDANCE.
11-27

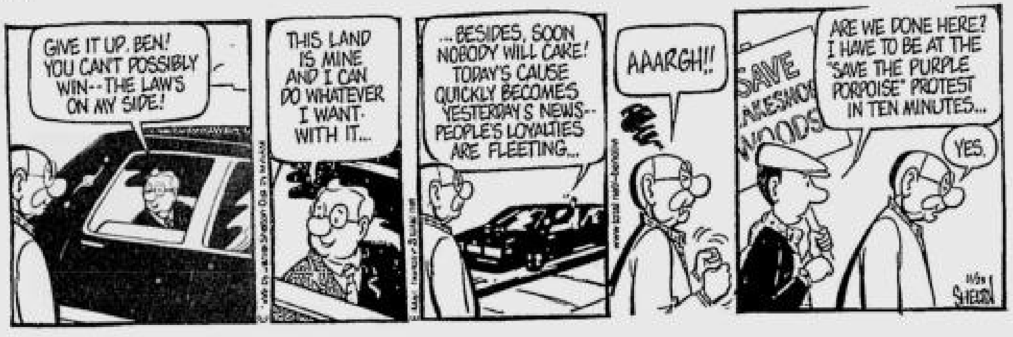
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


IT Really LOOKS DELICIOUS!
TIKMAN NA NATIN!
SUCKERS!
SINO'NG ME SABI NA MANSANAS ANG GUSTO NAMING KAININ?
DIYOS KO!!

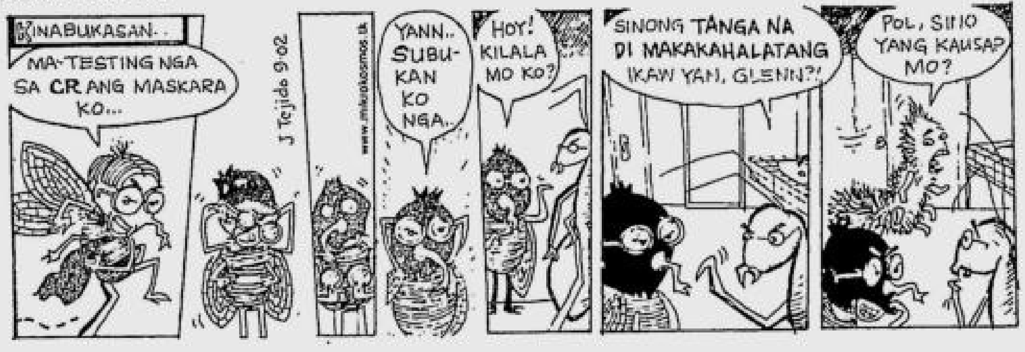
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


GIVE IT UP, BEN! YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY WIN--THE LAW'S ON MY SIDE!
THIS LAND IS MINE AND I CAN DO WHATEVER I WANT WITH IT...
...BESIDES, SOON NOBODY WILL CARE! TODAY'S CAUSE QUICKLY BECOMES YESTERDAY'S NEWS--PEOPLE'S LOYALTIES ARE FLEETING...
AAARGH!!
SAVE LAKESHORE WOODS
ARE WE DONE HERE? I HAVE TO BE AT THE "SAVE THE PURPLE PORPOISE" PROTEST IN TEN MINUTES...
YES.
SHELTON

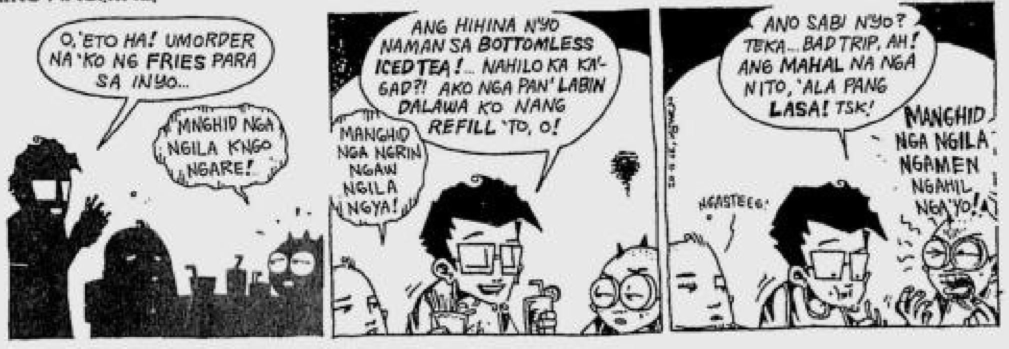
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


KINABUKASAN..
MA-TESTING NGA SA CR ANG MASKARA KO...
J Tejido 9-02
www.mikrokosmos.tk
YANN.. SUBUKAN KO NGA..
HOY! KILALA MO KO?
SINONG TANGA NA DI MAKAKAHALATANG IKAW YAN, GLENN?!
POL, SINO YANG KAUSAP MO?

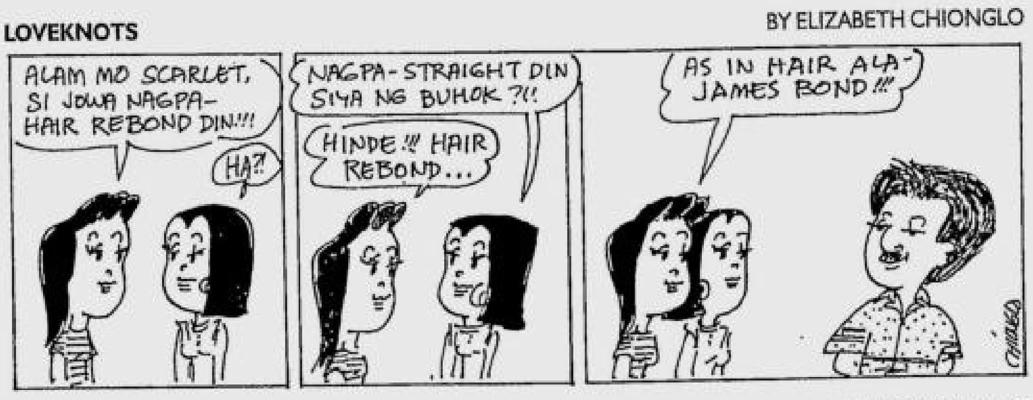
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


O, 'ETO HA! UMORDER NA 'KO NG FRIES PARA SA INYO...
MNGHID NGA NGILA KNGO NGARE!
ANG HIHINA N'YO NAMAN SA BOTTOMLESS ICED TEA! ... NAHILO KA KA-GAD?! AKO NGA PAN' LABIN DALAWA KO NANG REFILL 'TO, O!
MANGHID NGA NGRIN NGAW NGILA NGYA!
ANO SABI N'YO? TEKA... BAD TRIP, AH! ANG MAHAL NA NGA NITO, 'ALA PANG LASA! TSK!
NGASTEEG!
MANGHID NGA NGILA NGAMEN NGAHIL NGA'YO!

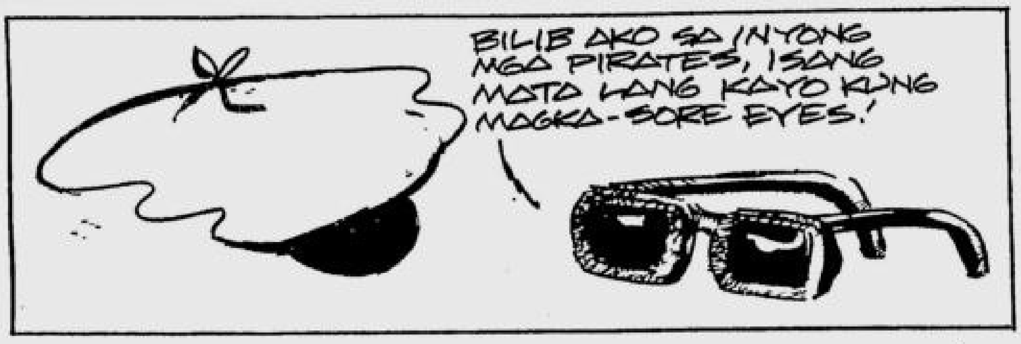
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


ALAM MO SCARLET, SI JOWA NAGPA-HAIR REBOND DIN!!!
HA?
NAGPA-STRAIGHT DIN SIYA NG BUHOK ?!!
HINDE!!! HAIR REBOND...
AS IN HAIR ALA-JAMES BOND!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


BILIB AKO SA INYONG MGA PIRATES, ISANG MATA LANG KAYO KUNG MAGKA-SORE EYES!

Robinsons Department Store

Midnight Sale Nov. 29

UP TO

50% off

ON SELECTED ITEMS

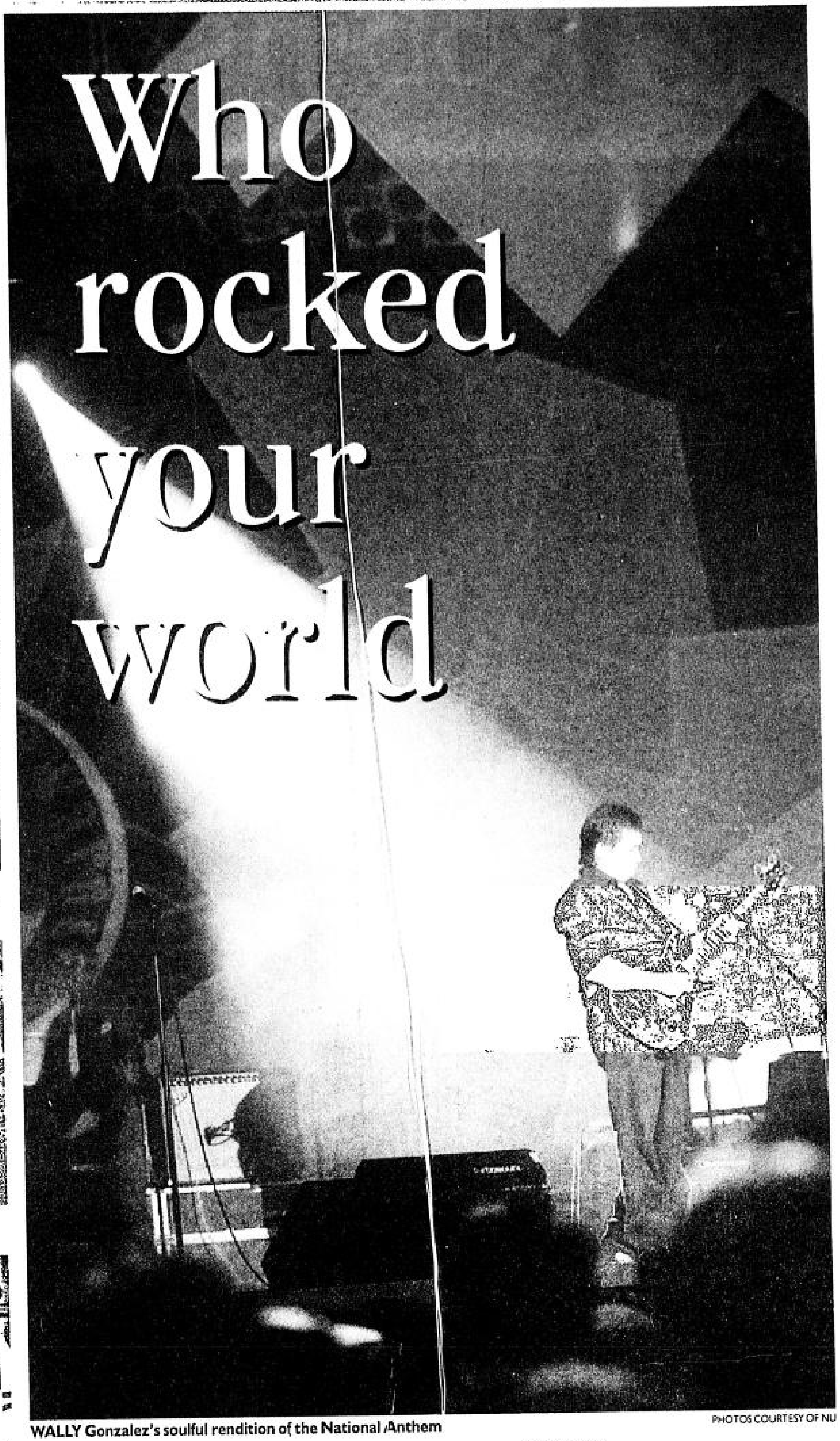
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4262 Series of 2002

www.rds.com.ph

Fashion everyday

Robinsons Galleria | Robinsons Place Manila, Novaliches, Imus, Cebu, Bacolod, Iloilo | Robinsons Metro East
Robinsons Starmills Pampanga | Tutuban Center | Starmall Shaw | Metropolis Star Alabang | Waltermart Sta. Rosa, Gen. Trias

Who rocked your world

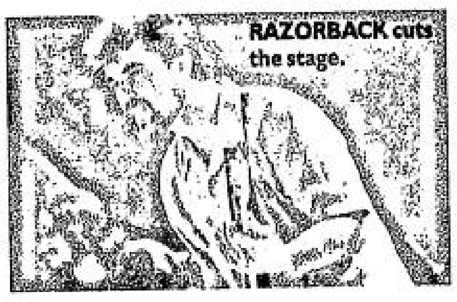


WALLY Gonzalez's soulful rendition of the National Anthem

PHOTOS COURTESY OF NU

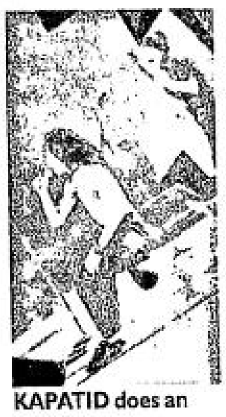
KUTOB mo ma *saya sila?* Chicosci's Calde and Mong

JOEY "Pepe" Smith makes a cameo appearance.



RAZORBACK cuts the stage.

SLAPSHOCK wins Band of the Year for the second time.



KAPATID does an acoustic set.

THE PIN-UP Girls' Mon Castro and his hearing problem

From page E1

crowd, and his too-late-follow-up, "*Jologs din naman ako, eh!*," which caused quite a stir?

"If it were Tado or Erning (hosts of UnTV's 'Strange Brew'), it wouldn't have been a big deal," one musician noted.

Ian Tayao must have agreed—after accepting his award, he proceeded to scream, "*Jologs daw, o!*" to the crowd.

Slapshock's win as Band of Year got the crowd chanting "*Queso!*," showing their obvious dislike for this year's choice. Slapshock dedicated their award to Cheese.

Security was another thing. Although exaggerations on the size of riots were released, it was like any other Rock Awards show were the fans got loud and rowdy. While this year's venue permitted people to unscrew glass doors and others to just walk into the venue after the first hour of the show (people were not collecting tickets at the door anymore), it's the same adrenaline and hype as any other Rock Awards show.

One thing that put a smile on people's faces, though, was the promise of more diverse bands in next year's shindig. This year's performances saw Daydream Cycle cutting the stage, and bands like Monsterbot and Pan (whom Mike Elgar would want to see get nominated next year) getting the crowd on their feet. Twisted Halo's Joey Odulio predicted that next year's show would showcase newer bands with a different variety of sound.

The Rock Awards will air on ABC 5 on Dec. 10. The producer's cut will air on UnTV in January.

LIST OF WINNERS

Best New Artist **Boldstar**
Artist of the Year **Slapshock**
Song of the Year **"Paris," Chicosci**
Album of the Year **"Pilipinas," Cheese**
Rock Video of the Year **"Down," The Pin-Up Girls (Quark Henares)**
Best Album Packaging **"Edgar Edgar Musikahan," Parokya ni Edgar**
Vocalist of the Year **Ian Tayao**
Guitarist of the Year **Mong Alcaraz/Sonny Basquil of Chicosci**
Bassist of the Year **Nino Avenido of Greyhoundz**
Drummer of the Year **Libyano of Bad Burn**
Producer of the Year **Raimund Marasigan**
In the Raw Award **Popular Days**
Hall of Fame inductee **Wally Gonzales**
Listener's Choice **Cheese**

the Castle
QUALITY AT ALL TIMES

ANNIVERSARY
Sale!
up to 60% off
on selected fabrics
and x'mas decors
Starting Today
until Dec. 31, 2002

GREENBELT MALL
Ayala Center, Makati
815-0224 8164008

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
Grd Flr., Ayala Alabang
807-2252 842-4540

POWERPLANT
2/F, Lifestyle, Powerplant
Rockwell, Makati City
898-2552

SM MEGAMALL
2/F, Bldg. B, Mandaluyong City
633-9197 633-4942

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4704 series of 2002.

"LaserLight Hair Removal - We did it!"

More and more women from different walks of life attest to the effectiveness of LaserLight Hair Removal, the only FDA-approved treatment for permanent reduction of unsightly, unwanted hair anywhere on your body.
Call Facial Care Centre NOW for LaserLight!

"I did it! I just wish I'd done it a lot sooner.
Barbie Ang-Chan
LaserLight client for underarms

"I did it! I highly recommend that you go for it, too!"
April Ma[illegible]
LaserLight [illegible]
upper lip & [illegible]

"I did it! Now I'm free from unwanted hair forever!"
Jeanette Jimenez-Pumaren
LaserLight client for [illegible]
lower legs & [illegible]

GET 40% OFF ON ALL LASERLIGHT PROGRAMMES
UPON ENROLLMENT FROM NOVEMBER 25 - 30, 2002 ONLY!

MAKATI
816-1259
815-3121
815-3123

ORTIGAS
687-2196
687-2197
631-3007 • 631-3045

QUEZON CITY
372-6633
372-6634
410-3709 • 410-3710

SHAW
534-7701/02
717-0076

ALABANG
842-1144
809-9583
850-4577

BINONDO
243-8138/39
243-8602
243-9895

CONGRESSIONAL
920-7938
920-7992
920-8064

PAMPANGA
961-3404/08
860-2663/64

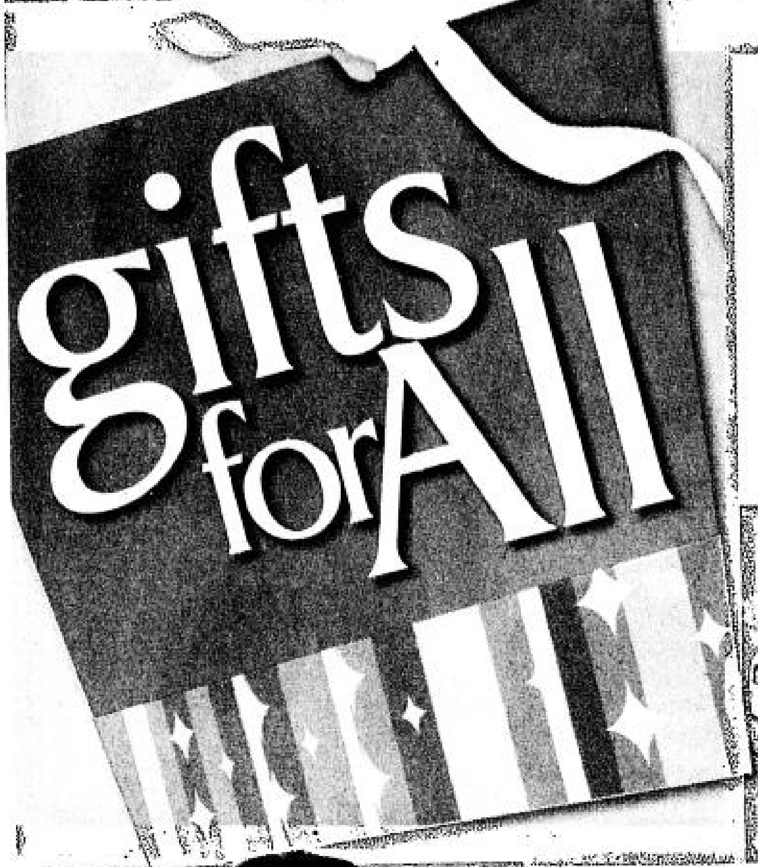
CEBU
233-7631
233-7633/35

Facial care centre
Where Beautiful Skin Happens

Per DTI-NCR Permit #4324 Series of 2002

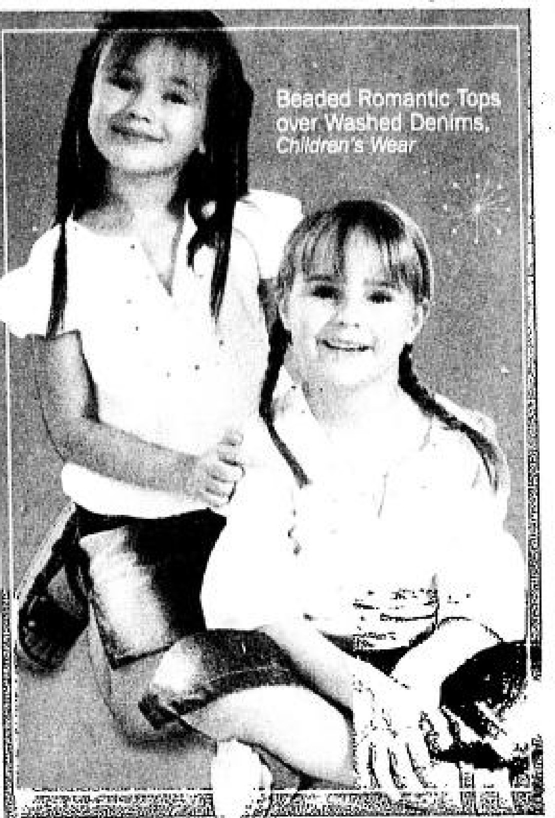
MON. - FRI. (8 AM - 7 PM) / SAT. (8 AM - 5 PM)

christmas 2002



Beaded Denim Bandanna, *Children's Accessories*

Bratz Boy Dylan Create-over Fashion Set, *Toyworld*



Beaded Romantic Tops over Washed Denims, *Children's Wear*

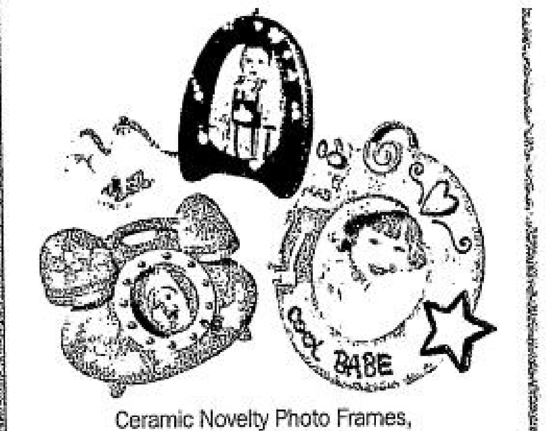
Pull-back Action Van from Disney, Toyworld

Garfield Mules and Dress Shoes, *Children's Shoes*

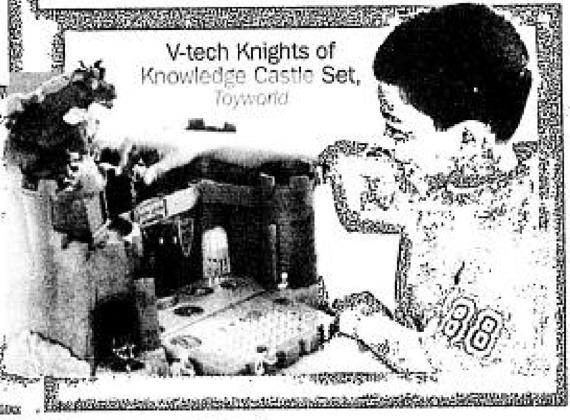
Colored Stones Fashion Jewelry, Children's Accessories

Lil' Romance Top and Lace-up Denim Shorts, *Children's Wear*

Plush Animal Backpack, *Children's Accessories*



Ceramic Novelty Photo Frames, *Children's Accessories*



V-tech Knights of Knowledge Castle Set, *Toyworld*

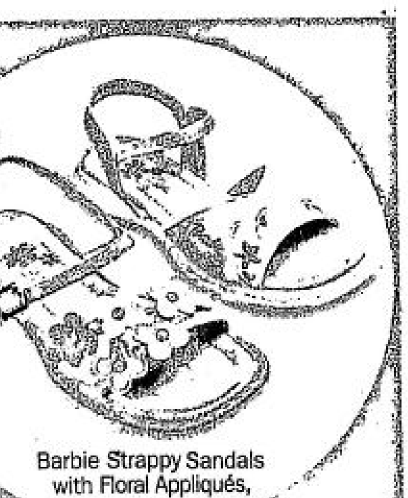
fun gifts for kids and pre-teens

Barbie Telephone / Alarm Clock / Radio, Toyworld

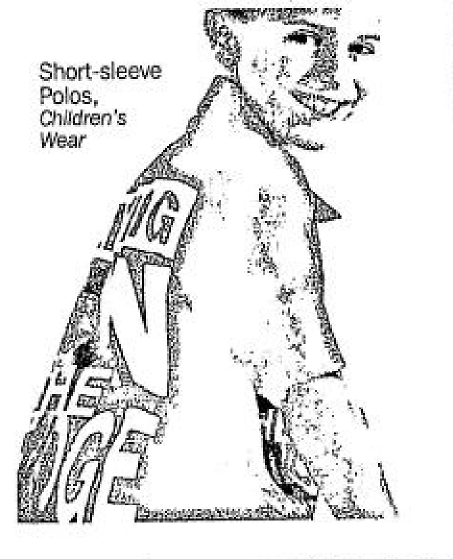
Denim Mini Backpack / Handbag, *Children's Accessories*

Barbie Cosmetic Beauty Set, *Toyworld*

Easy Lace-up Knit Tops with Denim Skirt or Pants, *Pre-Teens' Wear*



Barbie Strappy Sandals with Floral Appliqués, *Children's Shoes*



Short-sleeve Polos, *Children's Wear*

Perfecting the art of gifting

DEPARTMENT STORE

We've got it all for you!

christmas 2002

gifts for All

The Lord of the Rings Collectible Action Figures, *Toyworld*

V-tech Play 'n Learn SmarTV, *Toyworld*

Centered Blouses with Glittered Appliques, *Children's Wear*

Barbie Boots with Floral Appliques & Blinking Lights, *Children's Shoes*

Round-neck Tees with Prints, *Children's Wear*

Hair Grooming Gift Set, *Children's Accessories*

Pre-washed, Sand-blasted Denim Jeans, *Children's Wear*

great gifts from Children's and Pre-teens Wear, Accessories, Shoes and Toyworld

Vanity Set Backpack, *Children's Accessories*

Bratz Funky Fashion Makeover Set, *Toyworld*

Party Dresses with Matching Purse, *Children's Wear*

Burlington Dress Socks, *Children's Accessories*

Barbie Mary Janes with Velcro Closure, *Children's Shoes*

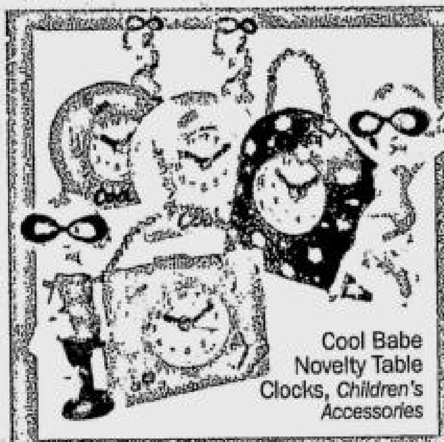
Mini Novelty Drawers / Photo Frame, *Children's Accessories*

We've got it all for you!

SM DEPARTMENT STORE

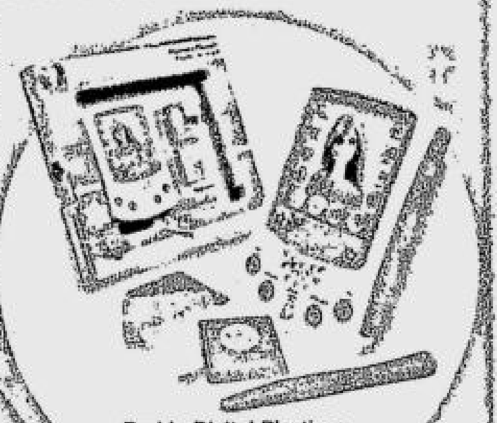
QUIAPO • MAKATI • CUBAO • HARRISON • NORTH EDSA • STA. MESA • ORTIGAS • LAS PIÑAS • BACOOR • FAIRVIEW • MANILA • PAMPANGA • ILOILO • CEBU • DAVAO • CAGAYAN DE ORO • BICUTAN

christmas 2002

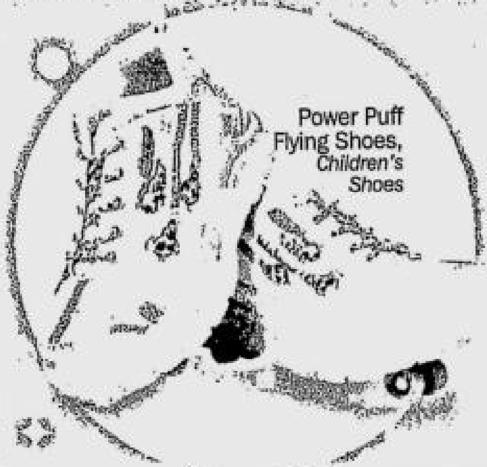


Cool Babe Novelty Table Clocks, *Children's Accessories*

Hair Grooming Set with Case, *Children's Accessories*



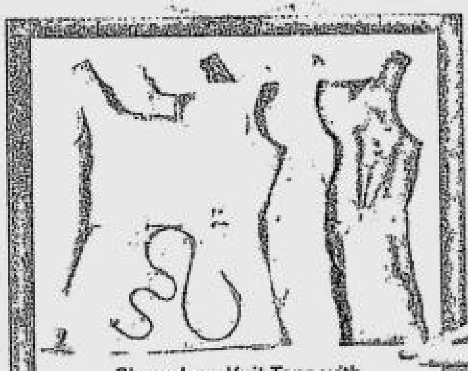
Barbie Digital Playtime Planner, *Toyworld*



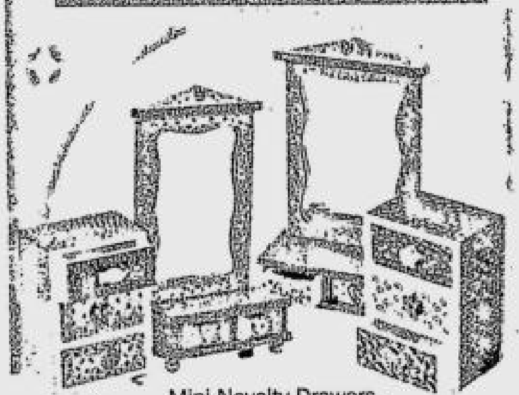
Power Puff Flying Shoes, *Children's Shoes*

White Knit Tops with Appliqués matched with Denim Pants, *Pre-Teens' Wear*

Denim Cloche Hats with Accents, *Children's Accessories*



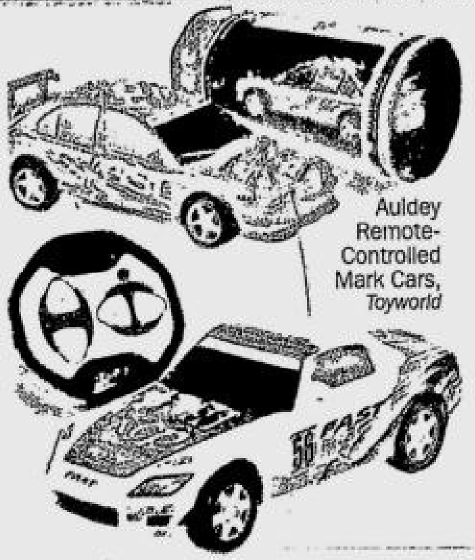
Sleeveless Knit Tops with Drawstrings, *Pre-Teens' Wear*



Mini Novelty Drawers, Vanity Mirror, *Children's Accessories*

Terrific gifts to own and chat about with buds

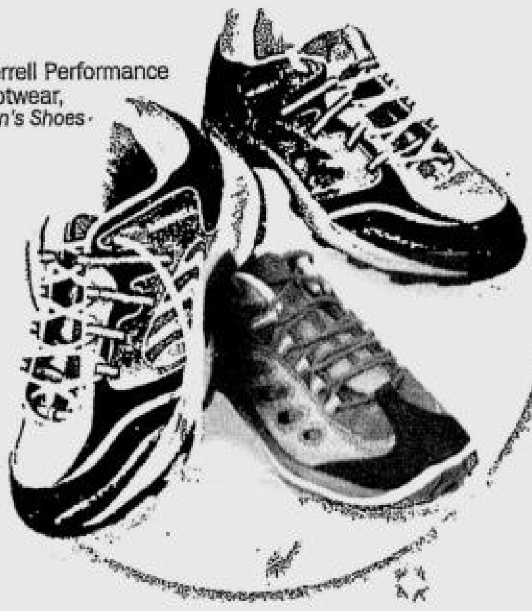
Round-neck Tees, *Boys Pre-Teens' Wear*



Auldey Remote-Controlled Mark Cars, *Toyworld*

Marvel Invisible Iron Man Figure with Comics, Toyworld

Transforming Blok Bots from Mega Bloks, *Toyworld*



Merrell Performance Footwear, *Men's Shoes*

V-Tech Handheld Mindbooster, *Toyworld*

Playstation 2, PS2 Superman CD, *Toyworld*

Perfecting the art of gifting

christmas 2002

gifts for All

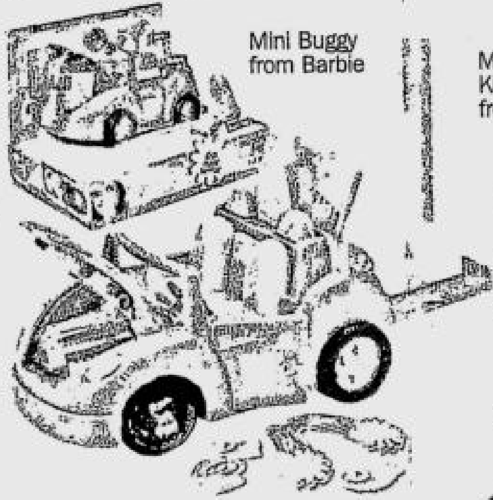
Octoblast Track Set from Hot Wheels

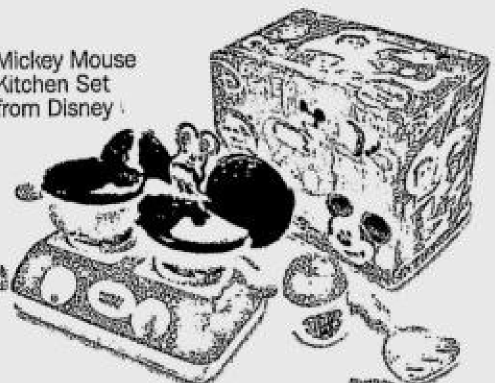
Arts & Crafts Easy-paint Set from Sun Catcher Gallery

Glitter-ific Sparkle Style Home from Fashion Polly

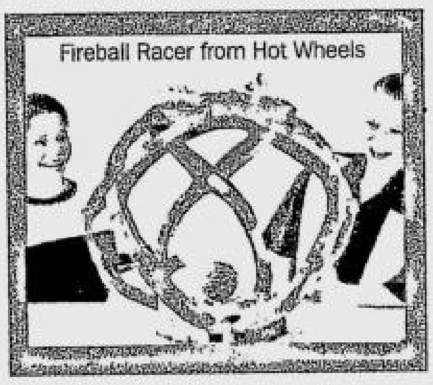
Chamber of Secrets Trivia Game from Harry Potter

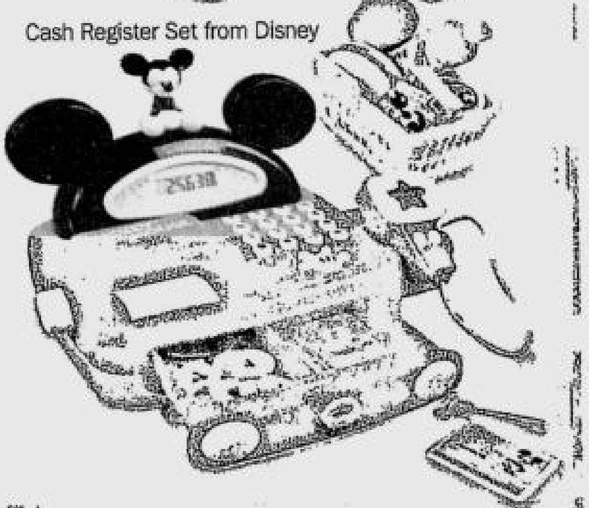
Interactive Radio Pop Dreamers from Disney


Mini Buggy from Barbie

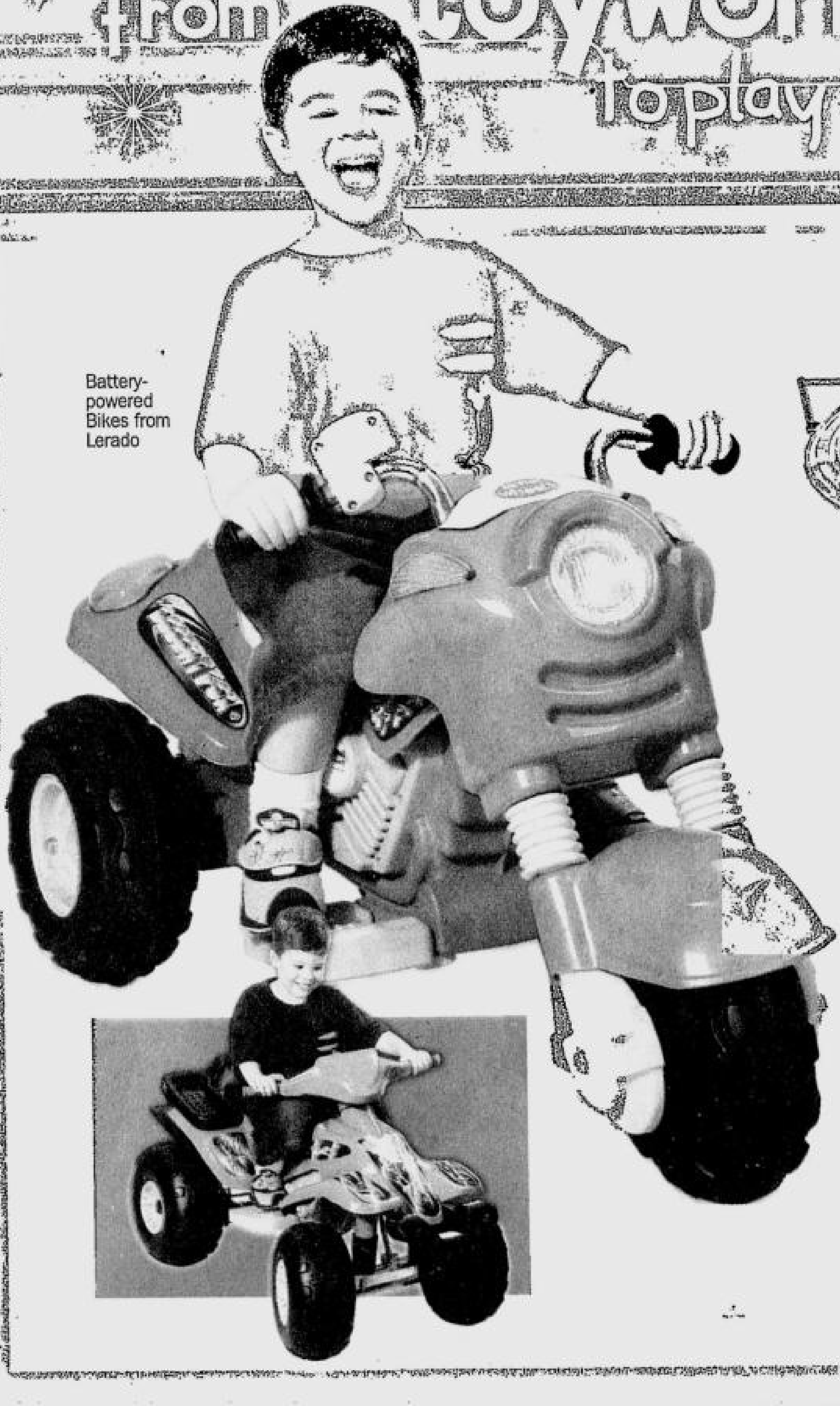

Mickey Mouse Kitchen Set from Disney

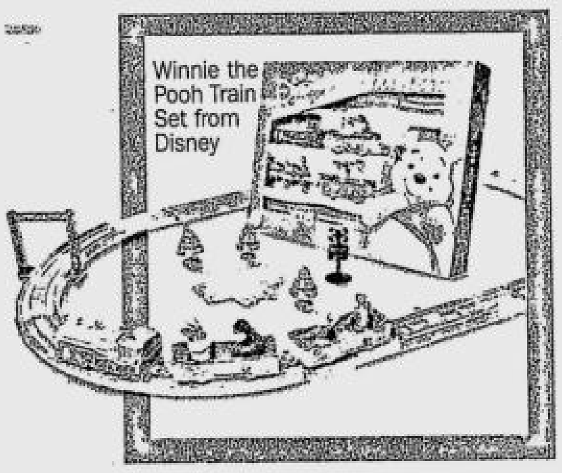
Brilliant Pocket PC Games from Barbie


Fireball Racer from Hot Wheels


Cash Register Set from Disney

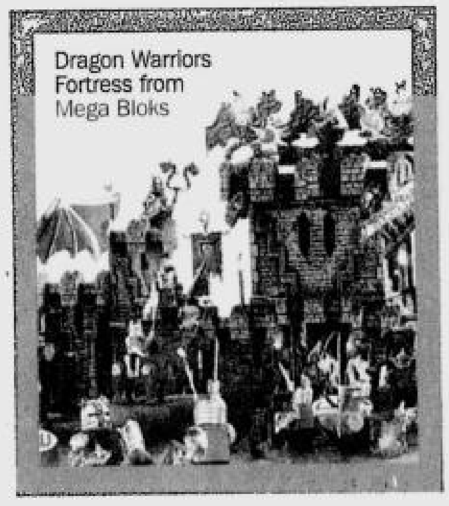
from toyworld great gifts to play with and learn from

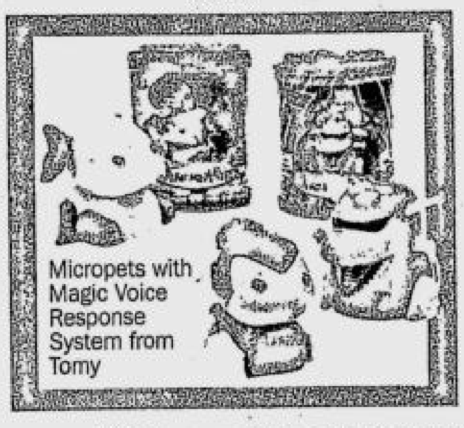

Battery-powered Bikes from Lerado


Winnie the Pooh Train Set from Disney

Program-a-Bot Hi-Tech Robotic Fun From Smarty

Porcelain Mask Paint Set from Rainbow World


Dragon Warriors Fortress from Mega Bloks


Micropets with Magic Voice Response System from Tomy

We've got it all for you!

SM DEPARTMENT STORE

QUIAPO • MAKATI • CUBAO • HARRISON • NORTH EDSA • STA. MESA • ORTIGAS • LAS PIÑAS • BACOOR • FAIRVIEW • MANILA • PAMPANGA • ILOILO • CEBU • DAVAO • CAGAYAN DE ORO • BICUTAN